THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING GADGET MAGAZINE

Stuff

/GADGETS
/GEAR
/TECHNOLOGY

BEHOLD THE TWIN-TABLET!
Radical Libretto goes one better than the iPad

3DTV GRUDGE MATCH
Panasonic plasma vs LG LCD: fight!

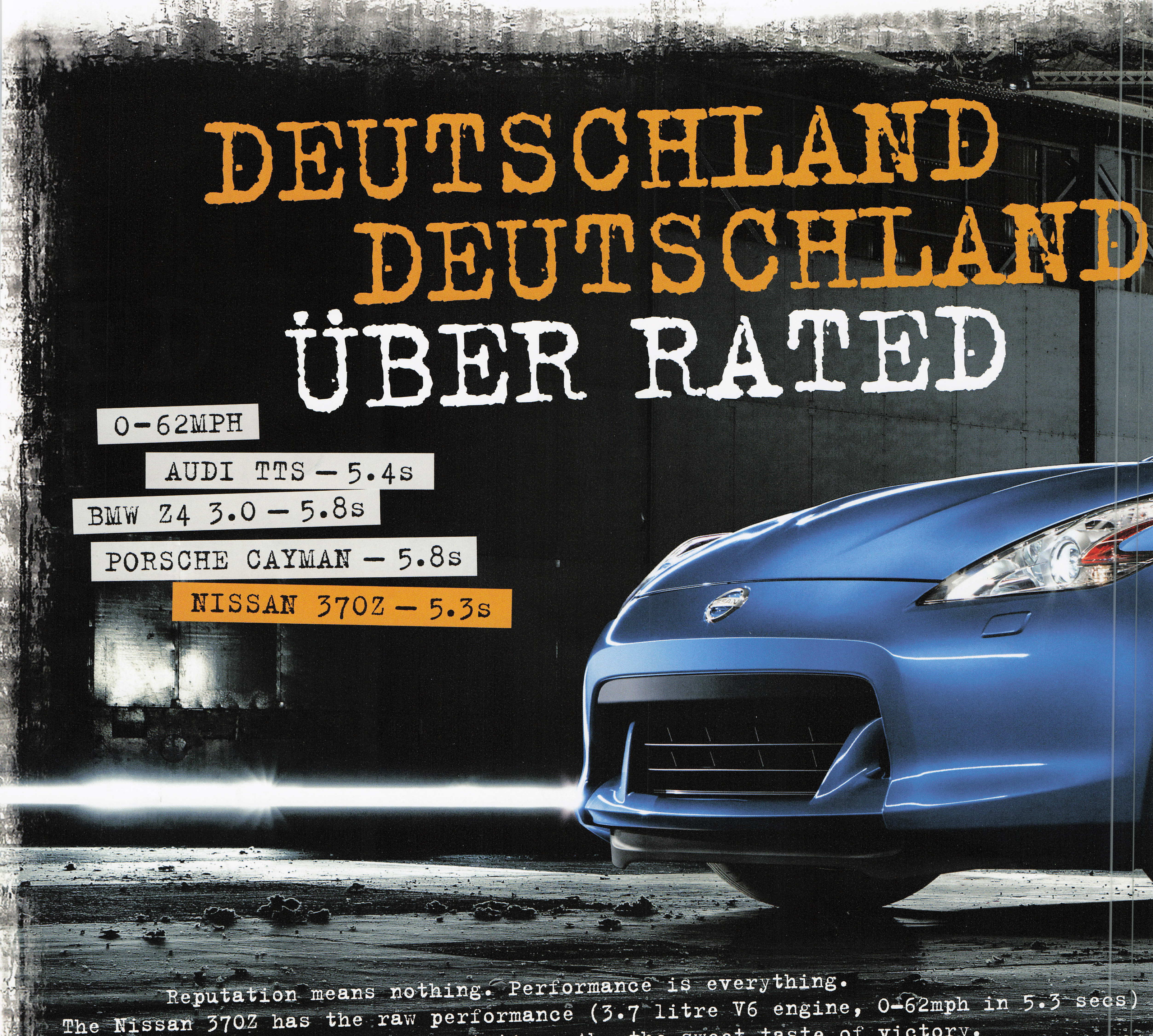
FIVE WAYS GAMING HAS CHANGED FOREVER

Xbox Kinect kicks off the new movement revolution | **Nintendo** brings 3D to your hands | **OnLive** kills the console

+ THE 20 BEST GAMES EVER p81

NSIDE iPHONE 4
APPS & ACCESSORIES

September 2010 £4.25
www.stuff.tv
haymarket
09


DEUTSCHLAND
DEUTSCHLAND
ÜBER RATED
0-62MPH
AUDI TTS – 5.4s
BMW Z4 3.0 – 5.8s
PORSCHE CAYMAN – 5.8s
NISSAN 370Z – 5.3s

Reputation means nothing. Performance is everything.
The Nissan 370Z has the raw performance (3.7 litre V6 engine, 0-62mph in 5.3 secs)
to outclass the German competition. Ah, the sweet taste of victory.
With an even sweeter price tag.

See for yourself at nissan.co.uk/sports

NISSAN 370Z FROM £28,345

0-62 MPH times as quoted on manufacturer websites. Audi TTS 2.0 (£34,760 OTR price) 5.4 seconds, BMW Z4 sDrive30i (£33,830 OTR price), 5.8 seconds, Porsche Cayman 2.9 (£37,261 OTR price) 5.8 seconds, Nissa
specification. Models subject to availability. 370Z Coupe shown priced at £31,645 includes GT Pack (£3,300) and has optional scratch shield metallic paint available at £550. Prices include VAT at 17.5%. Nissan Motor (GB

Fuel consumption figures for 370Z Manual 3.7: CO_2 248g/km – EXTRA URBAN 36.2mpg/7.8L/100km – COMBINED

NISSAN
SHIFT_ the way you move

0Z Coupe 3.7 V6 5.3 seconds. Price available at participating dealers only. Information correct at time of going to print (June 2010), price includes £55 first registration fee and road fund licence. Refer to dealer for exact
, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.
010627/3B

6.7mpg/10.6L/100km – URBAN 18.3mpg/15.4L/100km

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for normal hair
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*removes up to 100% of flakes. Claim based on visibility of flakes at two feet when used regularly.

BOOKMARKS

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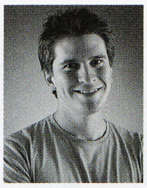

The march of technology won't dilly-dally, but thankfully it doesn't mind the odd tangent. While the Roman road may be marked "smaller, faster, sleeker", the lanes are where the creativity happens. This is the domain of the "proper" gadget: the ingenious, the wacky, the why-the-hell-did-they-do-that stuff, like **Toshiba's brilliantly odd dual-touchscreen laptop** on p18 and the eureka-worthy **Sureflap catflap** on p22. Both deserve medals, but we've no idea what would be etched upon either of them.

Arguably, the greatest producer of proper gadgets in recent years has been Nintendo. With the DS it transformed the portable gaming experience into something multi-sensual. With the Wii it didn't just plough its own furrow: it moved on from agriculture altogether, in the process redefining what it means to be a gamer. Now Xbox and PlayStation are peddling approximations of the Wiimote, it's proved that the road less travelled can be a useful shortcut ahead of the pack. And, just as the others have picked up the trail, it's heading off into the undergrowth with a glasses-free 3D handheld. All of which can be read about in our **feature on the state of gaming in 2010**, starting on p53.

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making a world of difference
NEWS ONLINE
TOSHIBA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF LAPTOP INNOVATIONS
libretto

A WORD ABOUT PRICES...

Generally, we show the manufacturer's recommended price. Two exceptions:

- **Mobile phones** get a SIM-free price unless they're locked to a network and so only available with a contract.
- All prices in the **Top 10s** (p133) are the best we could find at the time of printing.

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drinkaware.co.uk for the facts

www.thatcherscider.co.uk

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THE LIGHTEST. THE FASTEST.
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IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING
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Stuff TOP 10 OF EVERYTHING

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For even more Top 10s and the best online prices, visit Stuff.tv

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for Ford Fiesta Titanium: urban 31.7-54.3 (8.9-5.2), extra urban 54.3-80.7 (5.2-3.5), combined 42.8-67.2 (6.6-4.2

Connect your music to your car.

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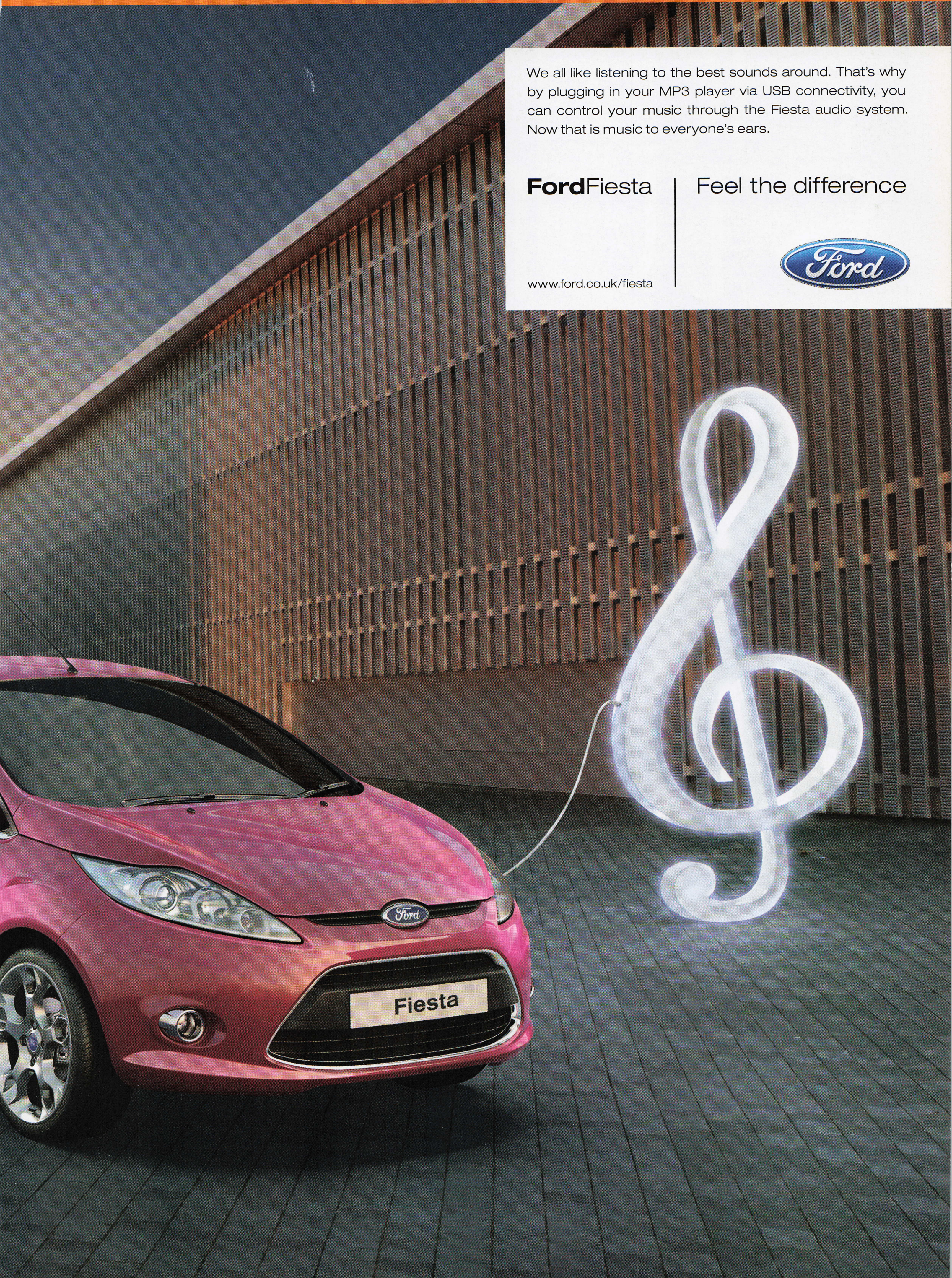
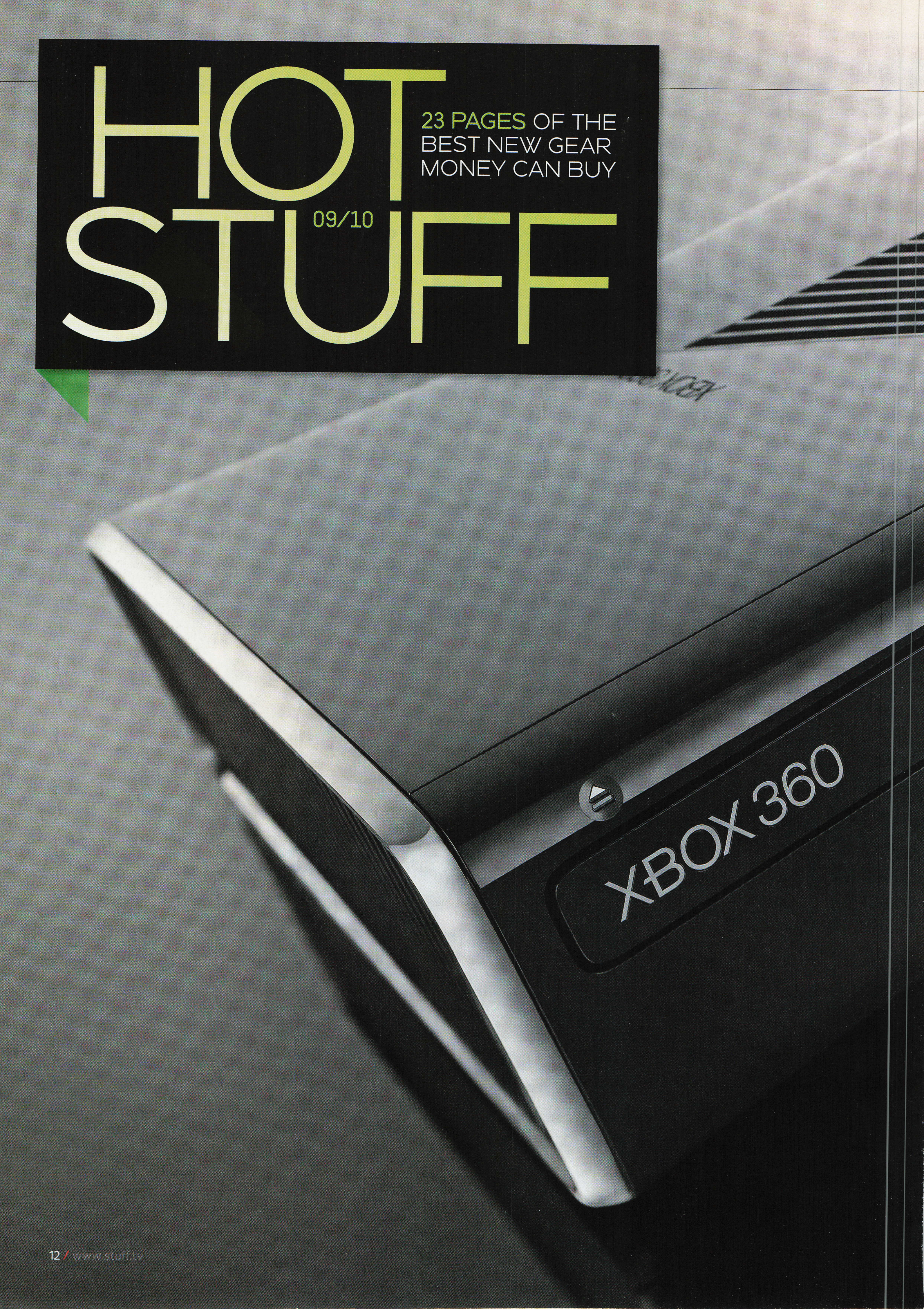


HOT STUFF

09/10

23 PAGES OF THE BEST NEW GEAR MONEY CAN BUY



HOT FIVE #1

Xbox 360 Slim

THE NEXT-GEN CONSOLE

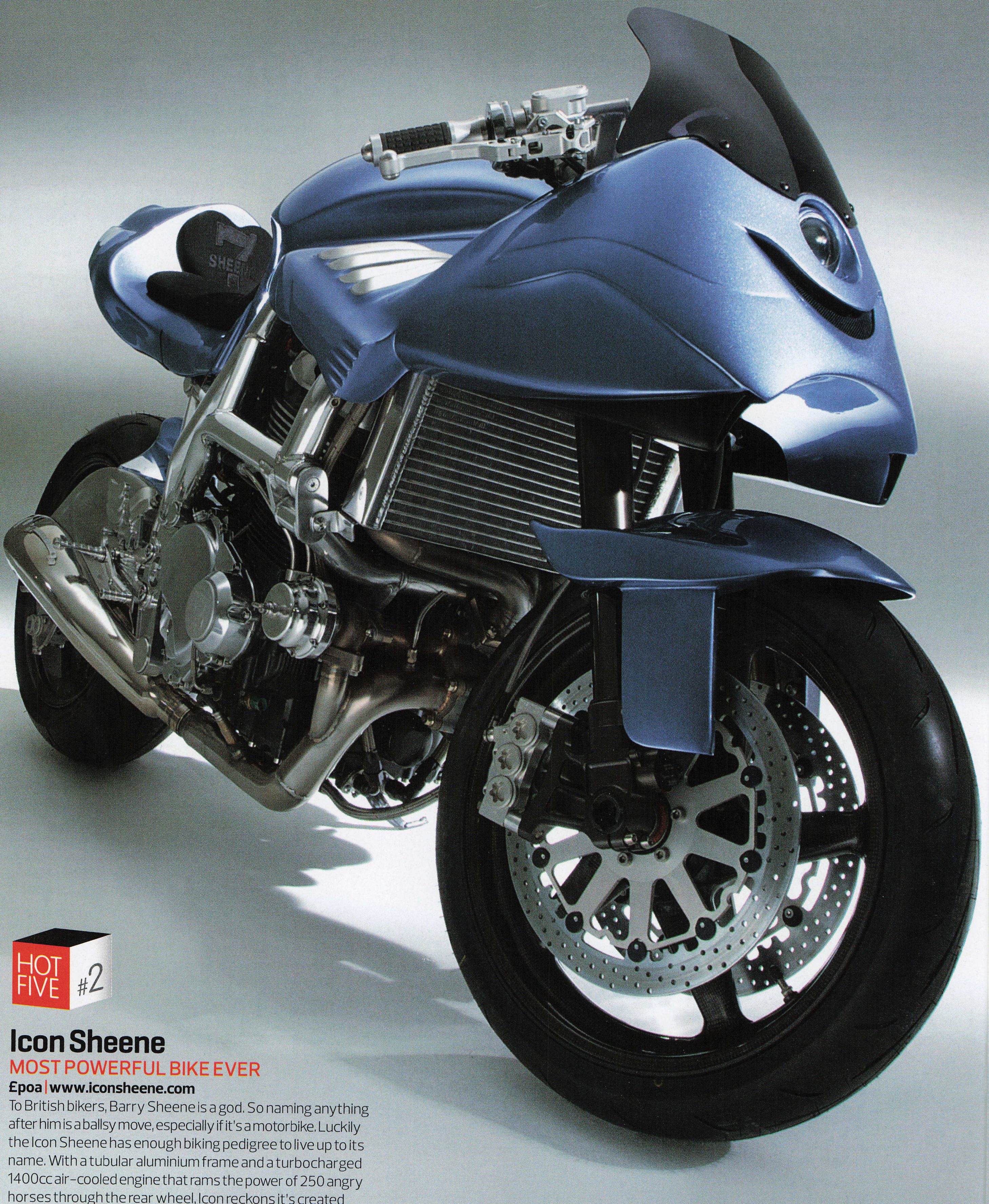
£200 | www.xbox.com

You can't get everything right first time. Microsoft learned that the hard way. With its lack of Wi-Fi, meagre hard drive and dreaded Red Ring of Death, the path of the Xbox 360 never has run smooth. But things have changed. The new Xbox has a slimmer look, built-in Wi-Fi, a quieter engine and a 250GB hard drive to fill. This is the Xbox 360 as it should have been from the start: capacious, quiet and connected. And considering it became the console of choice for hardcore gamers in its previous "flawed" form, this Kinect-ready console should have the PS3 petrified.

As hot as... a smoking graphics card

See the Slim put through its paces stuff.tv/360slim

Find out more about the future of gaming on p53



HOT FIVE #2

Icon Sheene

MOST POWERFUL BIKE EVER

£poa | www.iconsheene.com

To British bikers, Barry Sheene is a god. So naming anything after him is a ballsy move, especially if it's a motorbike. Luckily the Icon Sheene has enough biking pedigree to live up to its name. With a tubular aluminium frame and a turbocharged 1400cc air-cooled engine that rams the power of 250 angry horses through the rear wheel, Icon reckons it's created the most powerful production bike in the world. And with a sprinkling of Barry Sheene's spirit and the assurance that only 52 will ever be built (each one custom-fitted to the rider), it's got to be one of the most exclusive, too.
As hot as... an exhaust pipe ice cream cone

3D
OFF
X
Y
A
B
SELECT
HOME
START
POWER

HOT FIVE #3

Nintendo 3DS

3D IS IN YOUR HANDS

£tba (due 2011) | www.nintendo.co.uk

If you had to put on a fake nose and a welder's mask every time you wanted to play on your Xbox, you'd quickly find something else to do – something that didn't require any dressing up. Ninty knows that wearing glasses to see 3D is off-putting, so its new multi-dimensional handheld doesn't require any. Instead it uses lenticular tech on its 3.5in top screen to make games jump out, plus two cameras on the back to take 3D pics. Throw in motion sensors and a catalogue of games that includes *Mario Kart*, *DJ Hero* and *Metal Gear Solid* and you're holding the next gaming revolution. Get excited on p53.

As hot as... Mario's home-made penne arrabbiata

HOT FIVE #4

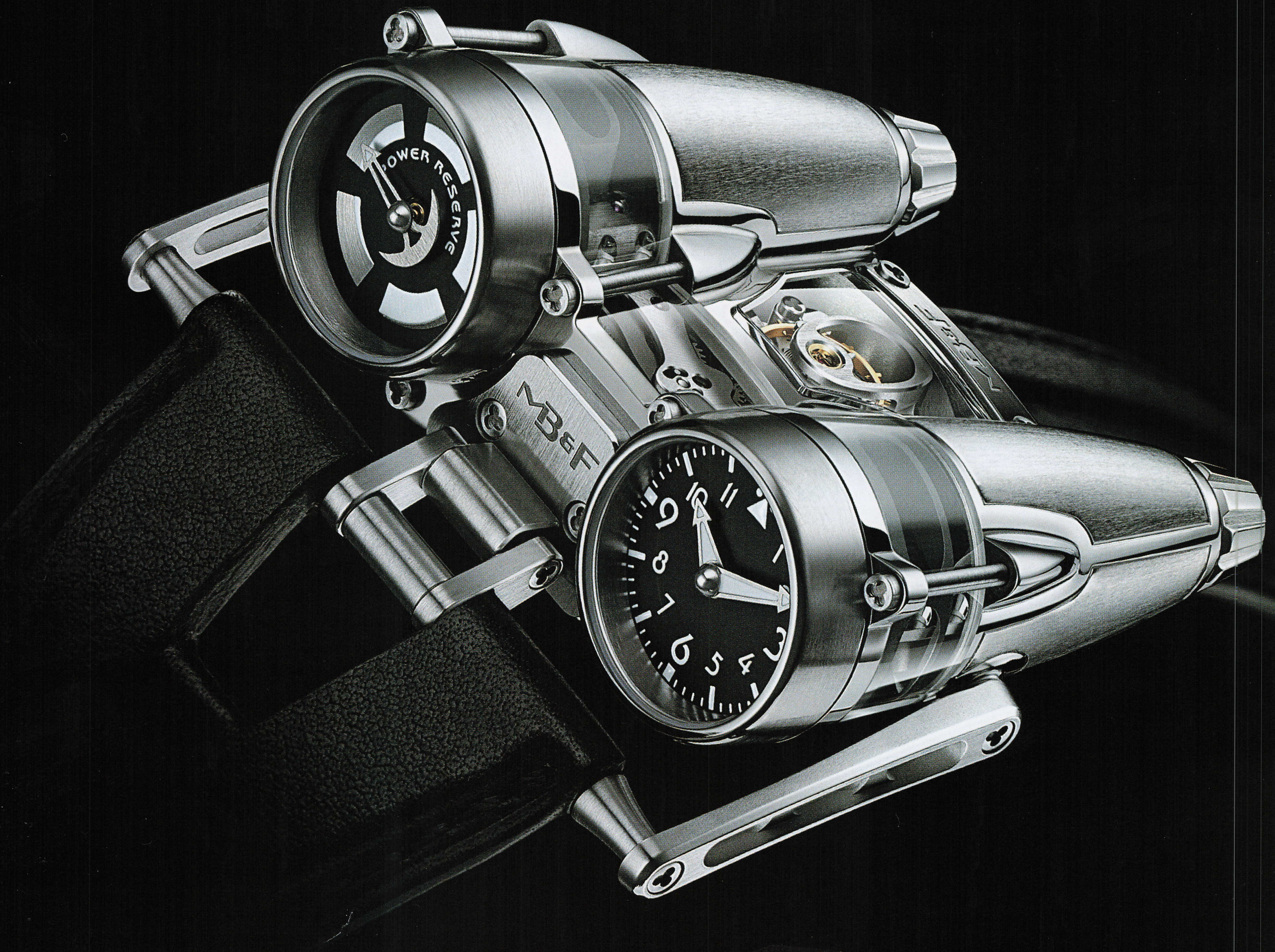
Dyson AM02

THE WORLD'S COOLEST FAN GETS COOLER

£300 | dyson.com

We're big fans of Dyson's Air Multipliers here at *Stuff*. Get it? Big fans? Oh, never mind. At just over a metre tall the AM02 looks a lot more like a sci-fi portal than its desk-based predecessor does, and thanks to its remote control you can even pump up the volume (of air) from the other side of the room. With no blades to accidentally tear your limbs off, it works by pulling air into its base and blasting it through a thin aperture around the blue rim. The expelled air carries a volume of surrounding air 15 times greater with it in your direction. Safe, clever and cool – what's not to like?

As hot as... Jessica Biel in a bath of Deep Heat



HOT FIVE #5

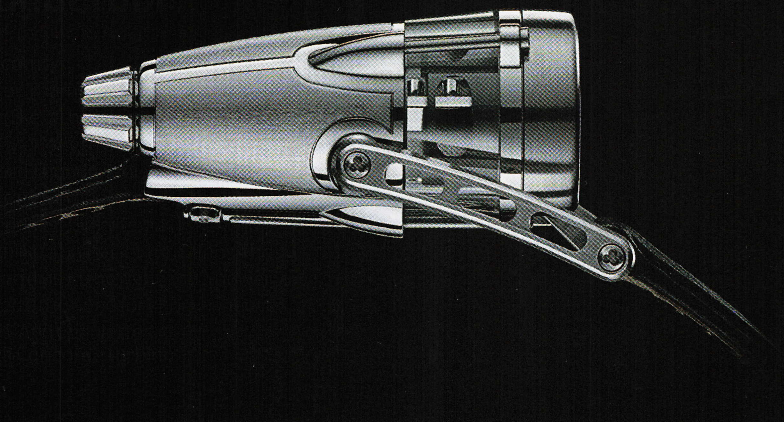
MB&F HM4 Thunderbolt

JETPACK-SHAPED TIME TRACKER

US$158,000 | www.mbandf.com

First, rename yourself Blizzard or Thumper, then slap on some Ray-Bans and say things like, "There's a bogey on your six!" Only then will you be pilot-y enough to strap on the unashamedly aviation-influenced Thunderbolt watch. The size and shape are a result of a unique movement that the designers amusingly call the engine. It comprises 311 parts, has taken three years to design and looks not unlike a pair of jet turbofans, the titanium case housing a standard dial on the right and a power reserve on the left. I feel the need... the need for shorter sleeves to show off my ridiculous watch. And epaulettes.

As hot as... a Scotch bonnet in a Concorde turbine



Pioneer

Kodo

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The **XW-NAV1** AV system not only looks great and harmonizes with every style, it also opens up a world of entertainment options: on the one hand it's a brilliant DVD player, on the other hand it's a multimedia machine that fulfils virtually every wish – from iPod and iPhone compatibility to FM radio and USB connectivity. **Experience everything at www.pioneer.co.uk/kodo or your Pioneer dealer.**

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for DVDs
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USB, FM tuner
CD ripping to USB
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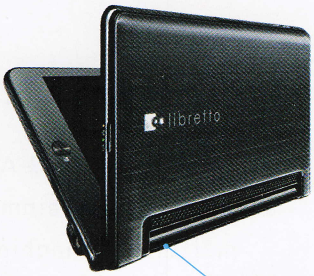
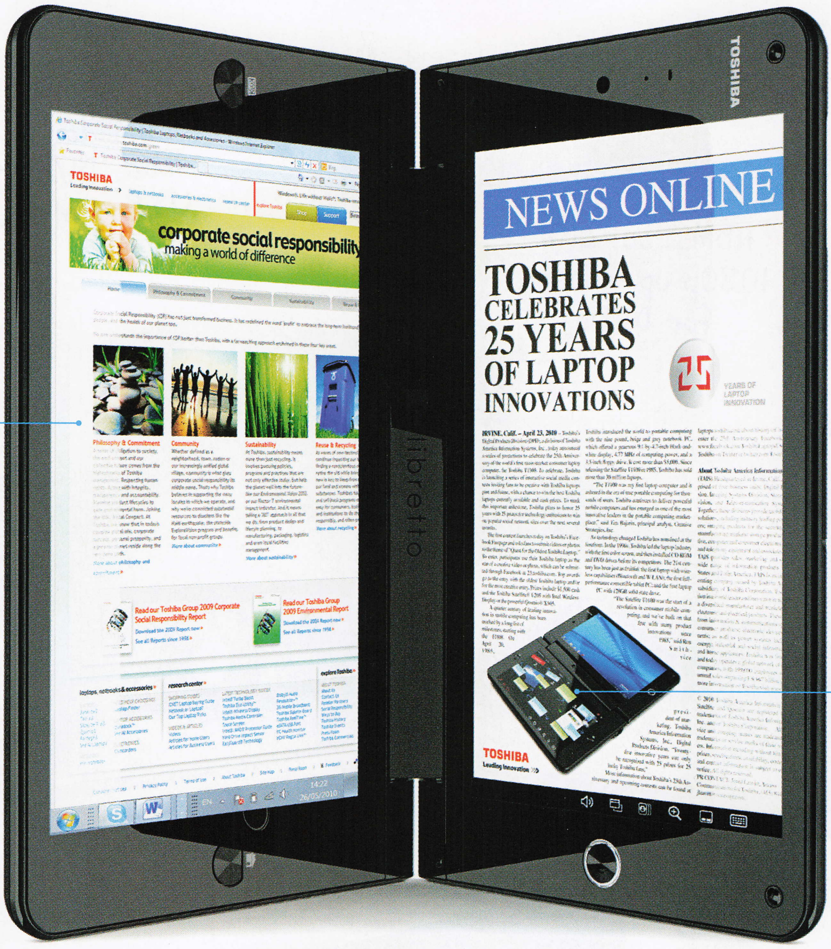
IN DETAIL THE DUAL-TOUCHSCREEN LAPTOP

Toshiba Libretto W100

£tba (due August) | www.toshiba.co.uk

Toshiba's netbook-sized Libretto laptop trades the keyboard for a touchscreen. Are two screens better than one?




TOSHIBA
corporate social responsibility
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NEWS ONLINE
TOSHIBA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF LAPTOP INNOVATIONS
libretto

Like touchscreens? Good, because the Libretto has two. Each one is a 7in LED-backlit job with crisp 1024x600 resolution and you can view content across them, or use each for different tasks. Both support multi-touch so **you'll be pinching and zooming your way around Google Maps** in no time.

The W100 can either be positioned like a netbook, folded down completely flat or turned on its side like a big plastic book. **It seems to work best when held in both hands**, dividing the keyboard in half across one of the screens and typing with your thumbs.

The Libretto isn't quite what you'd call lithe. At 1.2in thick **it looks like an aluminium-clad Nintendo DS** that's eaten one too many gigabytes. Luckily, at just 819g it doesn't have the heft to match. Maybe it's just full of fluff.

Obviously, it's not really full of fluff. At the centre of the Libretto's engine room is a 1.2GHz Intel U5400 ULV processor, plus 2GB of RAM to oil the cogs. **It runs full Windows 7 Home Premium**, though you can also find your way around using Tosh's own image-based LifeSpace interface.

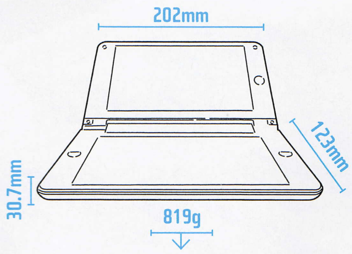
Libretto isn't the name of a new Cornetto; it's taken from a range of **ultra-portable laptops that Tosh introduced in the late '90s**. They were awkward to use; with the W100's virtual keyboard and lack of physical buttons, let's hope that this new incarnation doesn't follow in its predecessors' difficult footsteps.

Stuff says

A cool concept – but would you pick a Libretto over a normal laptop?

Alternatively…

Sony Vaio P
from £800 | www.sony.co.uk
Sony's similarly sized, ultra-wide netbook adds GPS and a compass. Oh, and a proper keyboard. Read our full review on p77.



TECH SPECS
OS Windows 7 Home Premium
RAM 2GB DDR3
Storage 64GB SSD
Connectivity 3G (optional), Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR, MicroSDHC, USB 2.0, Wi-Fi (802.11 b/g/n)
Battery life up to 3.5 hours

FUTURE STUFF

Object of DeZir
Renault DeZir

£tba (concept) www.renault.co.uk

What is it? This is what Renault sees when it gazes into its crystal ball. "DeZir" might sound like perfume you'd find in a pound shop, but this shows the direction Renault's electric motors are moving. **Will it work?** Well, the engineering is certainly sound. The large front air intake and fluid body shape help to cool the batteries, but sadly certain elements are likely to be lost between concept and reality. We can't help thinking those asymmetric gullwing doors will prove too much for Johnny Consumer. **Build it or bin it?** Build it – but add a rear window. Without one it's got "parking nightmare" written all over it.

Handy headcam
Oregon Scientific ATC9K HD

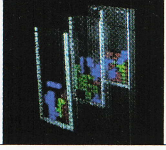
£255 | www.oregonscientific.com

Headcams aren't just for gnarly extreme sports types. They're perfect for people who are particularly accident-prone or clumsy, too. Take the ATC9K HD. Should you fall into an aquarium it's waterproof to 20m, and with its 1080p resolution will do a decent job of capturing the ensuing shark attack. A built-in G-sensor even tells you how fast you fell in. Add the optional GPS unit and it'll also plot where it happened on the bundled software, which, if nothing else, will help you avoid doing it again.

ATC9K
Waterproof 20M

Rumour Mill

■ A FaceTime-ready, camera-toting **iPod Touch** will launch next month ■ HTC's first **Windows Phone 7** device will be called the Gold ■ Samsung's 4.3in **Galaxy follow-up** will have a hi-def screen, 8MP cam and 32GB capacity ■ A full-colour **Kindle** will be available by the end of the year ■ Android 3.0 will bring cloud-based tune locker **Google Music** with it.



On the tube
Screens of water used for 3D tetris
bit.ly/watertetris

NEWS FEED

CAMERAS

Sony Cybershots get Sweep Panorama
Want to take 3D snaps but can't afford a 3D camera? Sony's WX5 and TX9 compacts stitch together info from up to 100 images to make pop-out panoramas minus the need for dual lenses. Hook it up to your 3D TV to view.

SMARTPHONES

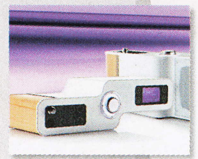
Microsoft kills Kin
A matter of weeks after they were announced, Microsoft has killed off its Kin phones. The social networking smarties live on in the US but will never make it to Europe, as Microsoft focuses on Windows Phone 7 instead.

TABLETS

LG confirms Optimus Tablet
LG has confirmed it is working on an Android-powered tablet, due later in the year. Part of its Optimus range, which also includes the Optimus Chic smartphone (pictured), it will run Android 2.2 with full support for Flash 10.1. Let battle commence!

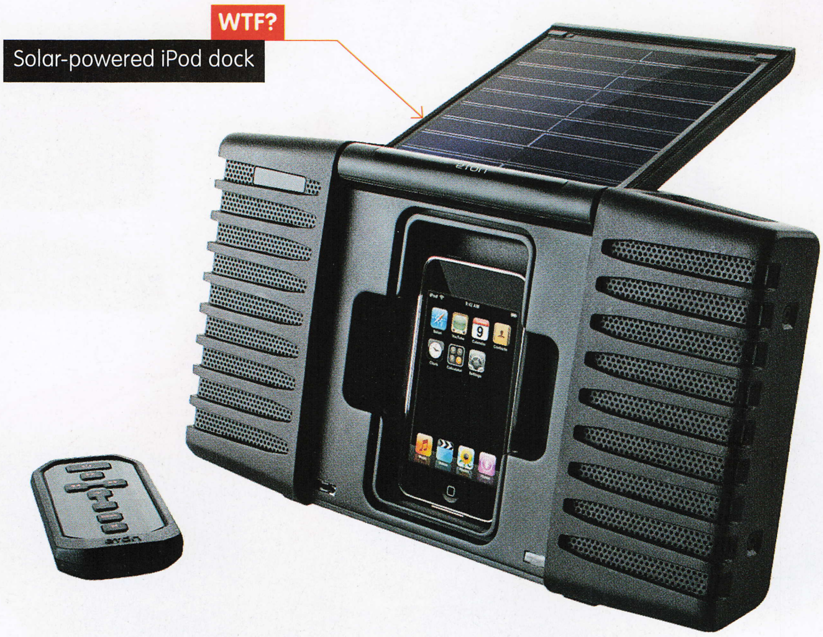
HI-FI

Monitor Audio AirStream 10 gets a new look
Monitor Audio's retro-styled radio is now available in white with pale wood panelling. The *Tetris*-shaped Airstream 10 (£225, monitoraudio.co.uk) has DAB and FM tuners, plus Wi-Fi for streaming web radio and tunes from your computer.



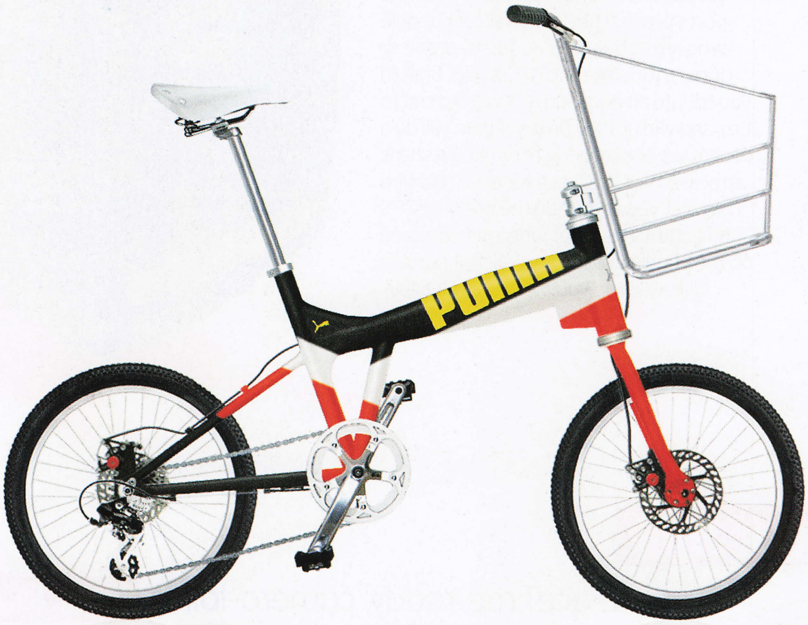
COMPUTING

Windows keeps everything in Sync
Windows Live has launched Sync, a new way of keeping on top of all your files. Install Sync on each computer you use (be they Mac or PC) and as long as they're turned on and connected to the internet you can synchronise files between them, and remotely access them via web browser. Handily, it's free.



Empire of the sun
Eton Soulra
£150 | www.etonsoulra.com

For something that looks like one of Darth Vader's radiators, the Eton Soulra actually absorbs a lot more heat than it releases. Rather than warming the en-suite in the Death Star's master bedroom (it can get awfully cold that side of the Kessel Run), the Soulra uses the sun's rays to charge the battery that powers its 11W speakers and the iPod or iPhone that nestles within it. That's just as long as Lord Vader doesn't blow up the sun, of course. Pesky Sith.

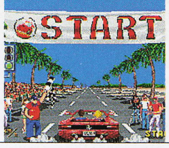


Saddled with responsibility
Puma Pico
£670 | www.puma.com

Sadly, we all have to grow up. No matter how hard you try, the passage of time will one day haul you into the adult world. Reclaim a slice of your knee-scuffing teens by parking your enlarged behind on a Puma Pico. It mixes the agile handling of a BMX with a set of city-friendly disc brakes and an integrated basket, so you can bunny hop your way to the shops for bread and milk. With 8-speed Shimano gears you'll even be able to cycle back without giving yourself a hernia. After all, you're not as young as you used to be.

Alberto VO5
EXTREME STYLE
FOR HEADS
THAT PREFER THE MATT LOOK
NEW VO5 EXTREME STYLE MATT RANGE.
THE LATEST INNOVATION FOR STYLE WITH A MATT FINISH. VO5.CO.UK
[mattPaste]
[mattGel]
24hr hold,
non-shiny
[mattWax]
[mattClay]

Gaming greats
Reliving *Out Run*, the most joyous driving game ever **bit.ly/gamegreat**



STUFF LOVES

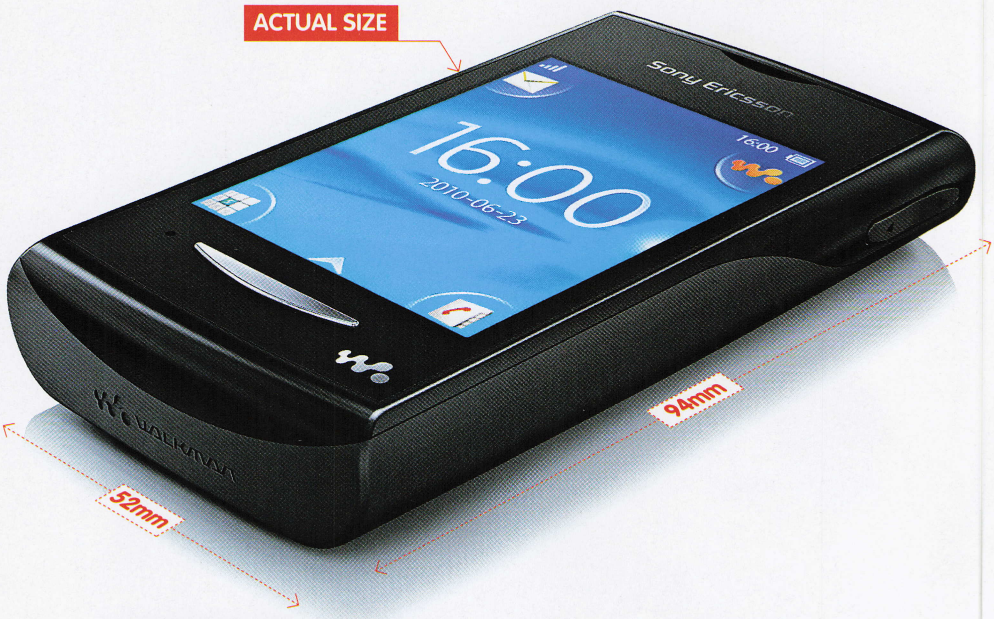
The pure, unfiltered genius...
...of the latest Old Spice ads. Who wouldn't want to ride a horse backwards? Or swan-dive into a Jacuzzi and land on a motorbike? All while smelling of jet fighters and punching. Watch the lot at **www.oldspice.com**

Summer biking in the Alps...
...with our buddies over at Halfords. Beautiful weather, stunning scenery all around and a test ride on the new Voodoo Zobop prototype. Want to know more? Read all about it at **bit.ly/stufflovesbiking**

Advances in cat flap technology...
...especially the SureFlap, a battery-powered NFC cat door that uses your mog's microchip to ensure no ne'er-do-well felines enter your house. A minor hack and you might even be able to use your cat as an Oyster Card on the London Underground.

Discovering the new *Angry Birds*...
... AKA *Flick Kick Football* on iPhone. It's basically *Paper Toss* with a goal instead of a bin. Simply swipe the ball adding curl to beat the wall and goalkeeper, with extra points for getting close to the woodwork. More addictive than cocaine and Coco Pops.

Vuvuzela shopping...
...and hippo spotting in South Africa with Sony Ericsson for the FIFA World Cup. Much like our ill-fated football team, the hippos did very little – but the less said about that shambles the better. If you want to read about the tech we took, head over to **bit.ly/stufflovessouthafrica**



The phone number of the beast
Sony Ericsson Yendo

£250 | www.sonyericsson.com

Mr Sony Ericsson crept inside the cave clutching his latest music phone close to his chest, its 2.6in touchscreen glowing like a Walkman-branded heart. The beast before him slept. Suddenly the phone rang, the beast awoke, and Mr Sony Eric was swallowed whole by the monster. When they found him all that was left was his mobile; the macabre tweets he made from its built-in Twitter client and its stack of 2MP photos provided testament to his final moments. In honour of Mr Sony Ericsson they named the phone after the beast that killed him. They named it Yendo. And here it is.

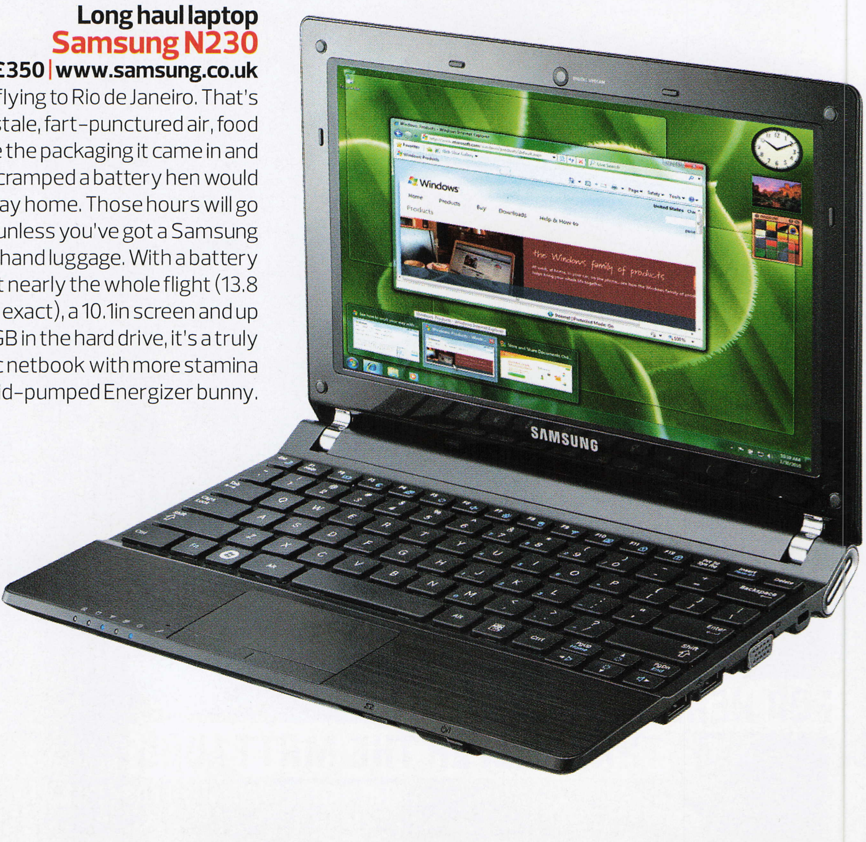
USE IT WITH...

Jays a-jays Three
£40 | www.jays.se
Plug these tangle-free sound-isolators into the Yendo's 3.5mm headphone jack.

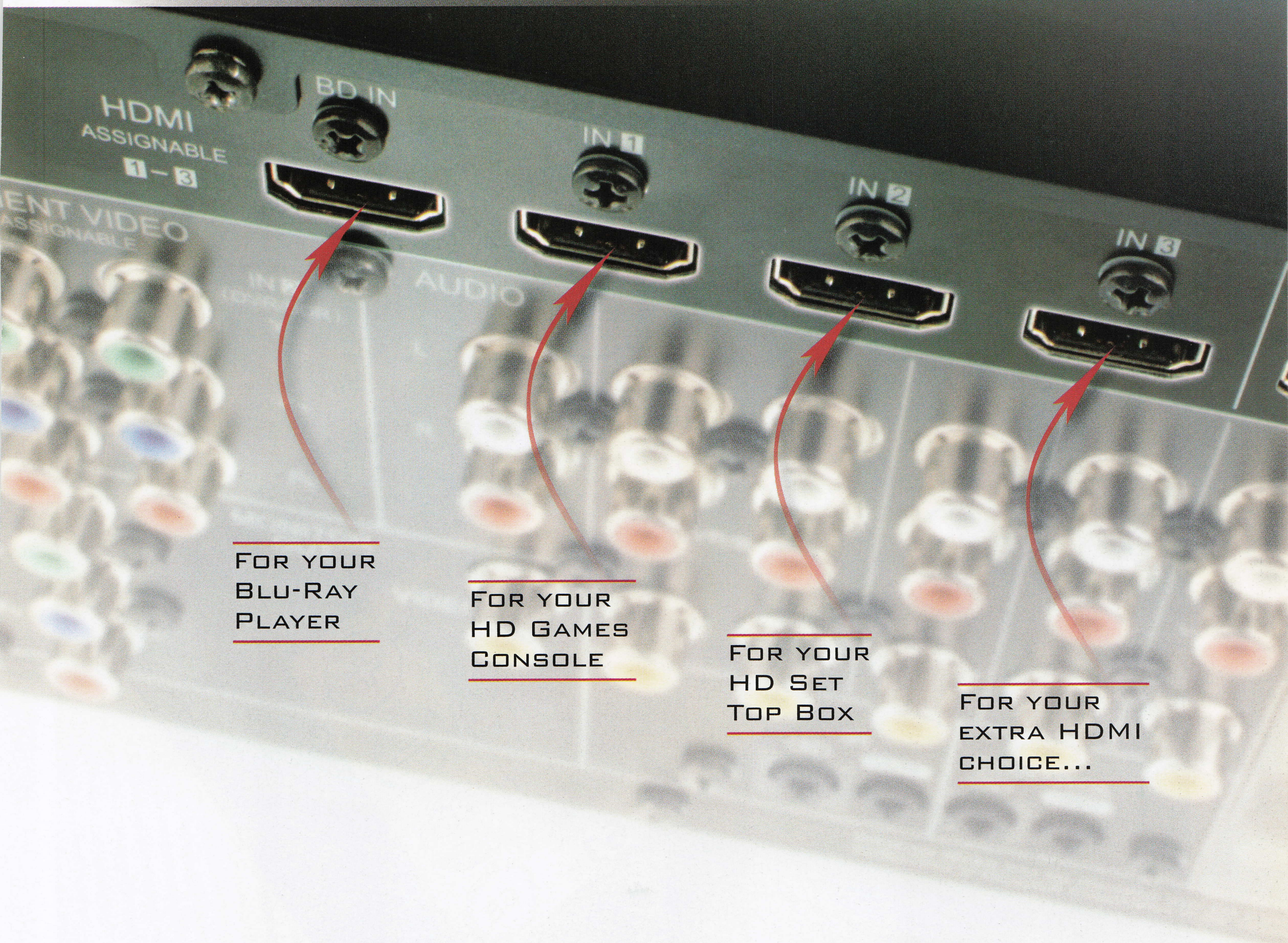
Long haul laptop
Samsung N230

£350 | www.samsung.co.uk

So you're flying to Rio de Janeiro. That's 14 hours of stale, fart-punctured air, food that tastes like the packaging it came in and conditions so cramped a battery hen would call it a holiday home. Those hours will go very slowly unless you've got a Samsung N230 in your hand luggage. With a battery life that'll last nearly the whole flight (13.8 hours, to be exact), a 10.1in screen and up to 250GB in the hard drive, it's a truly transatlantic netbook with more stamina than a steroid-pumped Energizer bunny.



Pioneer


HDMI
ASSIGNABLE
1 – 3
BD IN
IN 1
IN 2
IN 3
AUDIO
For your Blu-Ray Player
For your HD Games Console
For your HD Set Top Box
For your extra HDMI choice...

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Pioneer
DTS-HD MSTR

OPERATE WITH PIONEER iCONTROL AV APP

MODEL SHOWN IS THE VSX-920

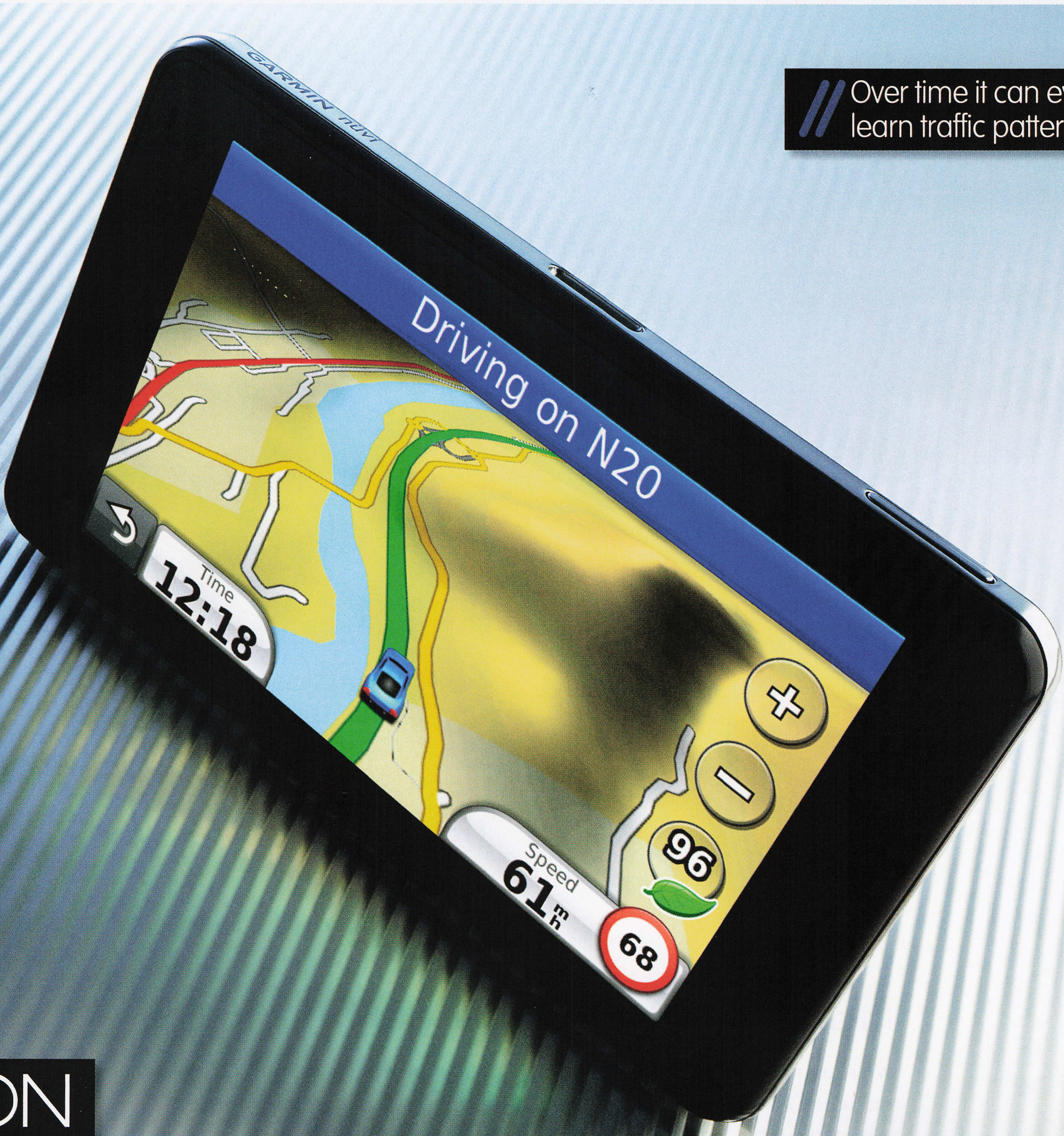
Made for iPod iPhone DOLBY TRUEHD PRO LOGIC IIz HDMI Auto Level Control ADVANCED SOUND RETRIEVER dts Digital Surround MCACC Multi-channel Acoustic Calibration System USB

MORE THAN JUST A BLACK BOX

WWW.PIONEER.CO.UK/HOME

"MADE FOR IPOD" AND "MADE FOR IPHONE" MEAN THAT AN ELECTRONIC ACCESSORY HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO CONNECT SPECIFICALLY TO IPOD OR IPHONE RESPECTIVELY, AND HAS BEEN CERTIFIED BY THE DEVELOPER TO MEET APPLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS. APPLE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION OF THIS DEVICE OR ITS COMPLIANCE WITH SAFETY AND REGULATORY STANDARDS.

A Jedi's best friend
A day in the life of a pet AT-AT Walker
bit.ly/jedisbestfriend



Over time it can even learn traffic patterns"

ICON

Garmin nüvi 3790T

£320 | www.garmin.co.uk

Blimey. Haven't you had enough of the iPhone yet?
This isn't an iPhone. Give those peepers a rub and take another look. See that big map across the front? It's a clue. Gone are the days when a sat-nav would squat on your dashboard like a bloated techy gargoyle, for this sliver of way-finding tech is as thin as a pencil. And it doesn't just look like the iPhone; it shares some of its DNA, too. That 4.3in capacitive touchscreen is covered in glass, plus it supports multi-touch and gestures to get you pinching and flicking your way home.

It can't make phone calls, though, can it? Eh?
Well, not on its own, no. But pair it with a Bluetooth mobile and you can happily hoot your trap off. It'll even let you control it by voice if you ask nicely. Just give it a name and it'll know when you're talking to it rather than shouting at that Sunday driver that's hogging the middle lane. Over time it even learns traffic patterns, so it'll tell you to avoid gridlock blackspots at busy times.

That'll be all big towns and cities off limits, then...
You could say that. But that way you'd be missing out on some of the best bits. The 3790T's maps include 3D buildings and terrain to help you work out exactly where you are and which way to turn. Not that you should have that problem. Its knowledge is so deep it'll tell you which lane to be in, and it even knows what the road signs look like. Get lost using one of these and you might as well be driving with your eyes closed.

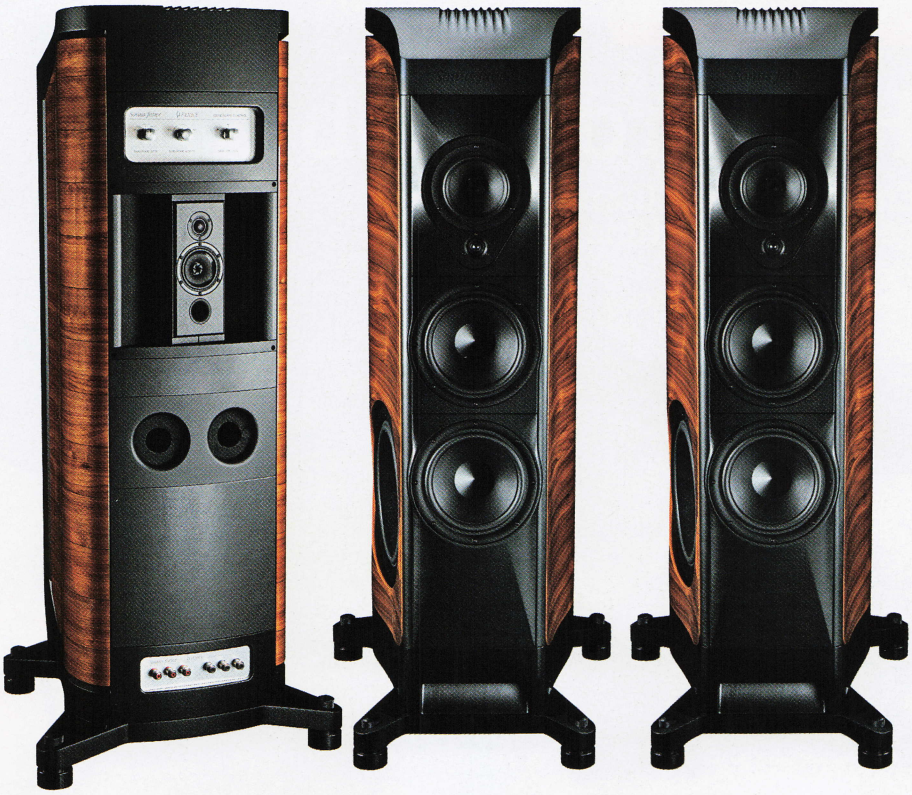
More skinny gadgets on p119

Pavement platformer
Super Mario goes urban
bit.ly/concretemario

Richter sounds
Sonus faber Fenice

£120,000 | www.sonusfaber.it

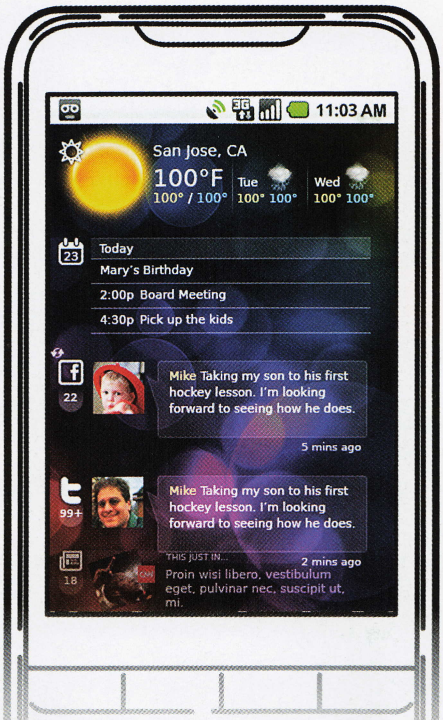
The most expensive speakers ever? Not quite, but Sonus faber has put the lot into the Fenice, from mass-tuned damping usually found in quake-defying skyscrapers to an extra speaker round the back to stop your room getting in the way of the music. The curvaceous shape is hand-made from multiple layers of marine ply, topped and tailed with heavy aluminium "clampshells", and each 1.7m-tall, 305kg tower wobbles slightly alarmingly on compliant suspension (don't worry, it's meant to). Want in? You're too late: only 30 pairs are being made, and they're all spoken for. Yes, at £120k. Someone out there's being paid too much...



SPOTLIGHT...

HipLogic Spark

£free (due October)
www.sparkmyphone.com



11:03 AM

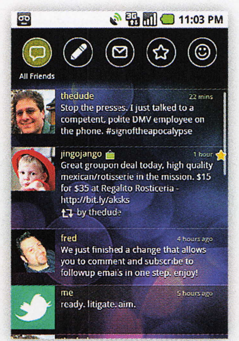
San Jose, CA
100°F 100° / 100°
Tue 100° 100°
Wed 100° 100°

23 Today
Mary's Birthday
2:00p Board Meeting
4:30p Pick up the kids

22
Mike Taking my son to his first hockey lesson. I'm looking forward to seeing how he does.
5 mins ago

99+
Mike Taking my son to his first hockey lesson. I'm looking forward to seeing how he does.

18
THIS JUST IN...
2 mins ago
Proin wisi libero, vestibulum eget, pulvinar nec, suscipit ut, mi.

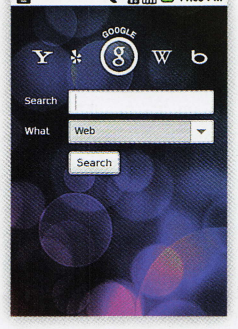


thedude 22 mins
Stop the presses. I just talked to a competent, polite DMV employee on the phone. #signoftheapocalypse

jingojango 1 hour
Great groupon deal today, high quality mexican/rotisserie in the mission. $15 for $35 at Regalito Rosticeria - http://bit.ly/aksks
by thedude

fred 4 hours ago
We just finished a change that allows you to comment and subscribe to followup emails in one step. enjoy!

me 5 hours ago
ready. litigate. aim.



What is it?

Spark is a skin for your phone that turns it into a more socially-minded smartie. With widgets for Weather, Agenda, Headlines, Twitter and Facebook, think of it as a MotoBlur or HTC Sense-style interface that works with almost any smartphone you happen to have in your pocket.

Any phone?

Well, not iPhones, obviously. But Spark will work on anything running Android 1.5 or later, Windows Mobile 6, Symbian S60 or Symbian^3. There's a software development kit coming, too, meaning anyone with a bit of geeky nous should be able to develop a Spark widget that'll work across all platforms.

But what does it actually do?

You get five default widgets when you install Spark. Most are self-explanatory: the location-aware weather app tells you whether you need wellies or flip-flops wherever you are, while the Headlines widget feeds through breaking news and sports stories direct from Sky.

What else?

There are apps for Facebook and Twitter that offer full functionality for both social networks. That means tweets, retweets, photo uploads and location-based jiggery pokery, not just a stream of lunch-based status updates.

Pretty useful. Is that it?

Not quite. Its calendar app sounds really handy, too. It combines appointments, birthdays and events from Facebook with stuff you've scheduled on the phone itself. You'll never miss anything again – unless you lose your phone, that is.

Stuff says

Spark adds functionality to your phone for free. What's not to like?

After more apps? We've picked the best for your WebOS mobile on **p99**

Video review: Dell Adamo XPS
How does the wafer-thin laptop stack up?
bit.ly/adamovideo

MY GADGET LIFE

Howard Webb

England's World Cup ref on fitness gadgets and goal line technology

[Picture Jamie McDonald/Getty Images]

I trained hard for the World Cup
I spent a lot of time training in an environmental chamber, which replicates the high-altitude conditions found in some parts of South Africa. I use Polar heart rate monitors all the time. The latest one incorporates GPS and an altitude function, which takes all the guesswork out of training. They're also quite sturdy and hard-wearing, so I tend to wear one all the time – unless I'm going out somewhere posh.

In football, analysis is key
I get sent a disc from Pro Zone which has a full breakdown of the game. At the click of a button I can watch all the corners, free kicks, offsides and yellow cards. Sometimes I'll see things on TV and think, "How did I miss that?", but the ultimate aim is to learn from it. Generally speaking, games look a lot more straightforward when you watch them back.

I'm not against tech in football
Anything that makes the job more accurate is worth looking at. We just need to make sure the nature of the game doesn't change. Because football is such a fast, free-flowing game, the ball doesn't always go dead immediately after a controversial incident. Sometimes it'll stay alive, sometimes there'll be a counter-attack or another passage of play – so at what point do you stop the game to look at a video replay? In terms of goal line technology, if it's totally reliable, accurate and instantaneous, then why not?

> // I was very into my tech – I had a Commodore 64 and a Spectrum"

It can be hard to keep up with technology
When I was young I had a Commodore 64 and a Spectrum. I was very into my tech in my early 20s, but I've got three kids now so it's more difficult. They know more about that stuff than I do. I'll take my laptop with me when I go away so I can use Skype to call home, and my iPhone is full of music and movies. I watched *The Damned United* on it on my way to Zurich recently. What a film. Brian Clough's a bit of a hero of mine.

I haven't seen any 3D footy yet
You can only watch it down the boozer at the moment, and I'm normally working on Saturdays. It's got to be better than *Jaws 3* though, that's the only 3D film I've seen at the cinema. I suppose you could say that from where I watch most games I get the ultimate in 3D. I've shared a field with some of the world's best footballers – there's really no better seat in the house.

Howard Webb was talking to us on behalf of Polar heart rate monitors, official supplier to Professional Game Match Officials (PGMO). For more information visit www.polarelectro.co.uk

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DIY geeks make a turntable out of an old hard drive
bit.ly/HDDturntable

GAMES FIVE GAMES FOR... GAMERS

Forget the motion control gimmicks: real men do it sitting down

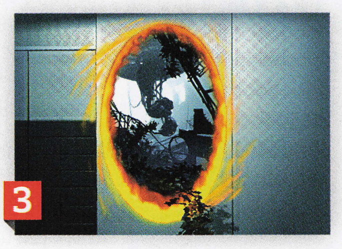
1

METAL GEAR SOLID: RISING
(PS3, Xbox 360)
The latest *Metal Gear* spin-off adds more combat to the play style, with lead character Raiden carrying a sword and not being shy about using it to detach limbs. *Rising* therefore has something of a slasher look and feel, but if you're an *MGS* traditionalist, don't worry: players are still able to plod through it, stealth-style.

2

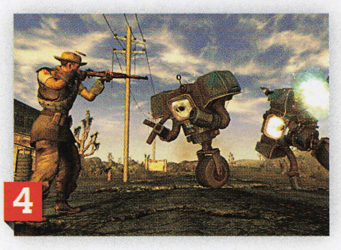
HALO REACH
(Xbox 360)
Halo lead guy Master Chief has been dumped in favour of Noble 6, a new, grunting marine who takes us through a war on series panto villains The Covenant. With the online element already thoroughly beta-tested and approved by fans, and a story that's set before the events of the initial trilogy, it's what every sofa marine will be playing this September.

3



PORTAL 2
(PC, PS3, Xbox 360)
Set hundreds of years after the original in a decaying version of the first game's beloved laboratory setting, new 3D puzzle challenges will come from tractor beams, air blasters and a special paint that alters the physics of surfaces it's applied to. Co-op levels will also help to ensure playing *Portal 2* is a lot more fun than watching special physics paint dry.

4



FALLOUT: NEW VEGAS
(PC, PS3, Xbox 360)
A sort-of sequel to the acclaimed *Fallout 3*, *New Vegas* offers a similar blend of strategy and combat, only this time in a new setting and with an all-new cast. It's set in Vegas in the year 2280, in the same nuclear war-ravaged, mutant-filled future that *Fallout* fans know and love. Once again you start as a "blank" character devoid of skills, taking on the role of a dazed delivery man.

5

CIVILIZATION V
(PC)
Opting to change the formula with hexagonal maps and new benign cities for players to conquer and assimilate, the new *Civilization* is hardly a massive rethinking – but then, there'd be riots in PC World if it was. The famed strategy series was never going to offer a control system where you jump about your living room wielding a plastic sniper rifle, now was it?

For more gaming stuff head to **p53** and **p81**

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Gadget flashback: Asus Eee series
The changing face of the dinky notebook
bit.ly/asusretro

CHOICE BOTTLE OPENERS

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① BlissHome Spanner Bottle Opener
£7 | www.amazon.co.uk
There are few things in life more manly than opening bottles of beer with a chrome-plated spanner.

② World's Smallest Corkscrew
£7 | iwantoneofthose.com
Uncork a nice bottle of red wherever you are with this titchy corkscrew that lives happily on your keyring.

③ Bottle Bunny
£10 | www.shinyshack.com
This not-at-all-sinister rabbit-shaped opener bites the tops off your bottles with its buck teeth. Wall-mount it for real leverage.

④ Bottle Opener Rings
£6 | urbanoutfitters.co.uk
Diamonds? Waste of time. These stainless steel bottle opener rings are also functional, and there's one for you, one for the lady wife.

⑤ Underground Bottle Opener
£8 | iwantoneofthose.com
Not being allowed to drink on the Tube any more shouldn't stop you using its logo to open your beers.

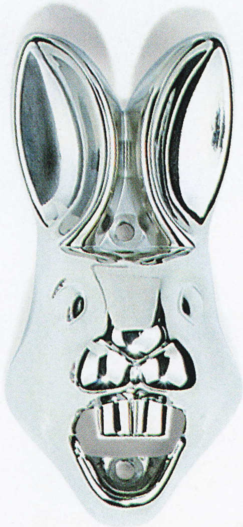
⑥ Sentol Bottle Opener
£9 | www.play.com
Take all the effort out of opening your drinks with a Sentol. Just push down 'til it clicks and the top'll jump right off.

⑦ Star Trek Bottle Opener
£13 | www.firebox.com
Set bottle to open with this heavy-duty top remover in the shape of the Starship Enterprise. It's beer, Jim...

①

②

③

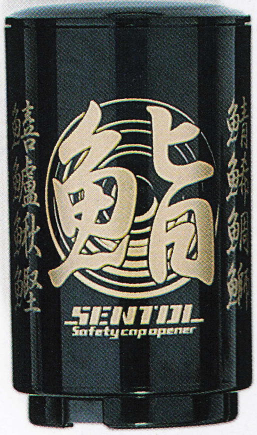


④

⑤

UNDERGROUND

⑥



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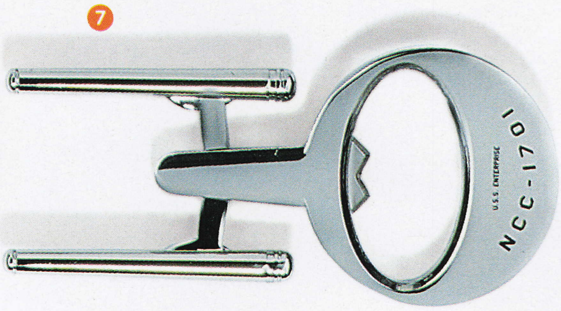
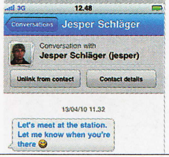


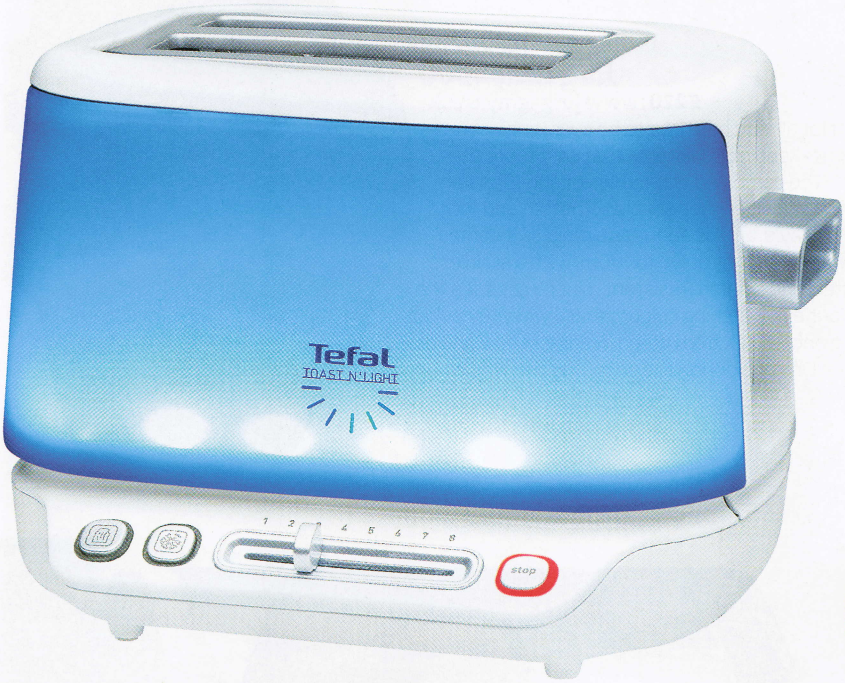
App of the month: TextOne
Cross-platform messaging for iPhone and Android **www.process-one.net**



Conversation with
Jesper Schläger (jesper)

13/04/10 11.32

Let's meet at the station. Let me know when you're there



Toast the light fantastic

Tefal Toast N' Light

£45 | www.tefal.co.uk

Normally there are only three colours involved in making a slice of toast: white, brown and, if you leave it too long, black. Toast pioneer Tefal is known for pushing the bread-browning envelope (Google "Toast N Egg" if you don't believe us), and its latest light-up job is no different. It changes colour from blue, to green, to yellow, to orange and finally red, giving you a multi-hued traffic light system to tell you when your toast is done. Breakfast has never been brighter.

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Berlin, 3 – 8 September 2010
www.ifa-berlin.com

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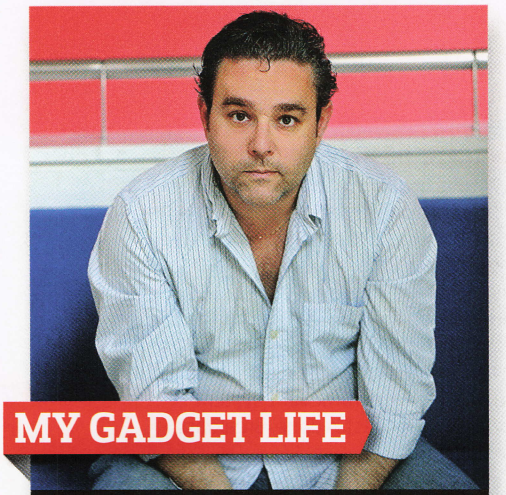
Set jaw to drop with these stunning 360° snaps
www.tristanshu.com



MY GADGET LIFE

Andy Nyman

Actor, magician, ghost hunter

I couldn't live without my iPhone
Although I'm ready to rip the insides out of my iPhone at the moment. I upgraded to iOS4 and it's stopped syncing with MobileMe, the reception's rubbish and the battery is scalding hot. I think they're trying to force me into upgrading. Not that I need much forcing.

The iPad is the greatest toy I've ever bought
Do I need it? No. Do I like touching it? Yes. I don't even know why. It's got nothing of any use. No camera, no USB, nothing.

I'm working on a couple of apps of my own
They're both magic tricks. They're not ground-breaking, but they create the illusion of impossibility with very simple methods.

> "The passive system will win the 3D format war"

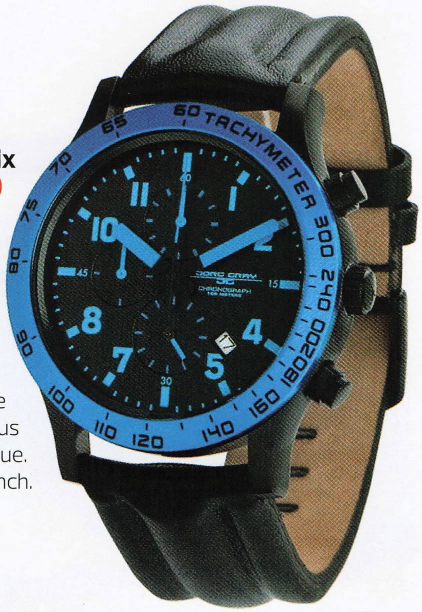
I'm slightly obsessed with 3D
I don't want to see a drama in 3D but I can't wait for *Piranha 3D*. I reckon the passive system will win the format war. Who wants to wear glasses you've got to put batteries in?

I'm big into my photography
I love Sweep Panorama on Sony's NEX cameras. I keep giving my current camera to the kids in the hope that they'll break it.

I don't believe in ghosts at all
But that doesn't mean I don't get creeped out or like the idea of something being there. All of the evidence we use in *Ghost Stories* is real.

I've looked online for ghost-hunting gadgets
I saw one which was just a plastic handle with an aerial attached to it. It was also sold to teachers as a dowsing rod for marijuana.

Ghost Stories is showing at the Duke of York's Theatre, London until November 7. To book, go to www.ghoststoriestheshow.co.uk

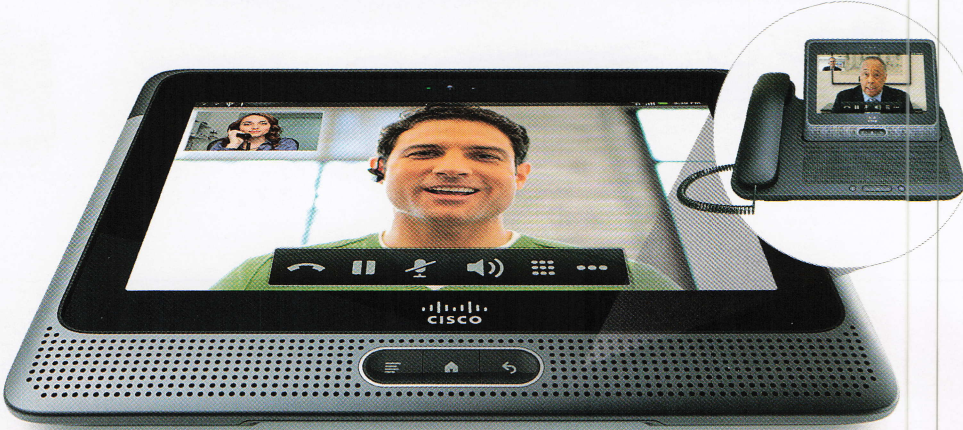


Pick 'n' mix

Jorg Gray 1900

£220 | www.jorg-gray.co.uk

Not all watches have to be over-engineered time-keeping sculptures that cost more than the combined economies of sub-Saharan Africa. Sometimes simpler is better, and Jorg Gray's 1900 is about as simple as it comes. Water resistant down to 100m, with a stainless steel and scratch-resistant mineral case, it's the four eye-catching colours that'll win you envious glances. Pick from green, orange, yellow and blue. Or, considering the price, buy the whole bunch.

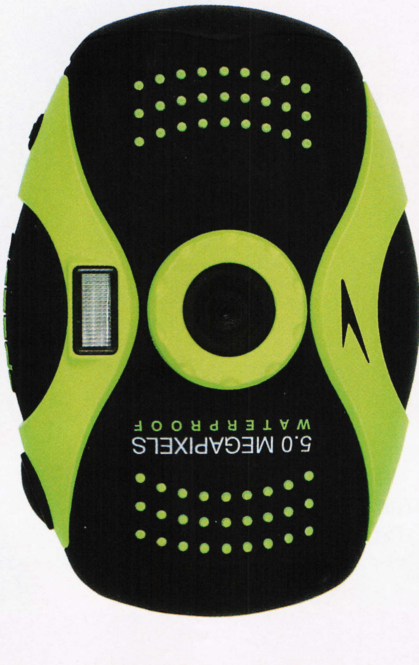


Now you Cius...

Cisco Cius

£tba (due February 2011) | www.cisco.com

Some people say technology is making the world smaller. It's not, unless someone has invented a giant planet-squeezing app for the iPhone that we don't know about. What it has done is create the *illusion* of a smaller world thanks to kit like the Android-powered Cisco Cius. Its 7in touchscreen and 5MP camera are designed for 720p video calls over 3G or Wi-Fi, meaning you can make San Francisco seem about as far away as Swindon.



H2Ooh...

Speedo Aquashot

£120 | www.speedo.co.uk

Wearing Speedos is normally best left to chaps vain enough to spend hours studying themselves in the mirror, but for the Aquashot camera you can probably make an exception. It won't do much to hide your modesty and with a 5MP sensor it's unlikely to tempt any wannabe Baileys, but with a waterproof skin thick enough to sink down to depths of three metres it's ideal for snorkelling exhibitions or pool-side photoshoots. Best get sculpting those guns...

reddot design award
winner 2010
GARMIN nüvi
Route A: 33 min
M275 (N)
M27 (NW)
M271 (S)
Garmin Europe
Go!
Route B: 15 min
M275 (N)
M27 (NW)
Millbrook Road West (NW
Garmin Europe
Go!
Garmin Europe: 33 min, traffic on M27
Derby Road
Kingston Crescent
Stubbington Avenue
Chichester Road
Queens Road
Washington Road
Binsteed Road
Little Arthur Street
New Road
Driving
N
Speed
30
30
86
Garmin, your guiding angel

Truly intuitive navigation with **myTrends™** and **trafficTrends™**

Divine directions and uniquely personal navigation

The perceptive nüvi® 3760 sat nav thrives on individuality to design the most heavenly journeys. With myTrends™ technology second-guessing your regular routes and trafficTrends™ saving you from traffic experienced by other drivers, Garmin has delivered satellite navigation as unique as you.

Make your Garmin your own at garmin.co.uk/**3700**

GARMIN®

Five of the best:
Waterproof gadgets
bit.ly/wetproof

BEST OF iPHONE 4 APPS & ACCESSORIES

You've beaten stock shortages and mile-long queues. The iPhone 4 is yours. But now what?

① 3 MiFi

from £40 | www.three.co.uk

Trick your iPhone into thinking its bathed in a FaceTime-friendly Wi-Fi hotspot by hooking it up to 3's revamped MiFi. It allows you to connect up to five devices at once and make video calls on the move over its HSDPA connection.

③ Proporta Antimicrobial Silicone Case

£20 | www.proporta.com

Made from bouncy, bump-resistant silicone, this iPhone armour saves it from scrapes and protects you from nasty germs with its antimicrobial coating. Best not to lick it though, just in case.

② Case-mate Lisboa

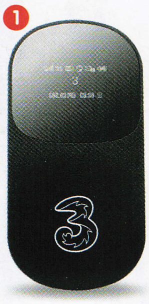
£20 | www.casemate.eu.com

Taking time out from stopping bottles, cork fancied a career change and joined Case-mate to make this iPhone jacket. It's reinforced by a metallic chassis, which comes in either bronze or silver. Get silver. Second place is better than third.

④ Element Vapor

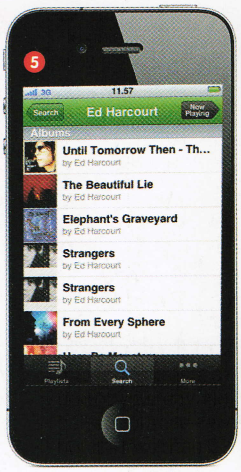
US$80 | elementcase.com

In true Apple style, Element's Vapor case is machined from a solid block of aluminium, meaning it's lightweight and tough and that it creates a non-conductive barrier between your signal-sapping paw and the iPhone's antennae. Problem solved.

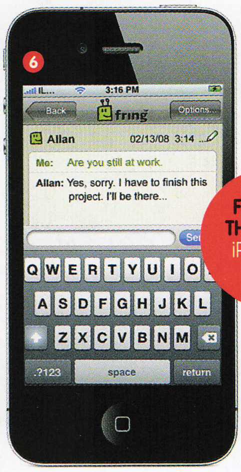


For iPhone 4-compatible hi-fi docks, jump to **p93**

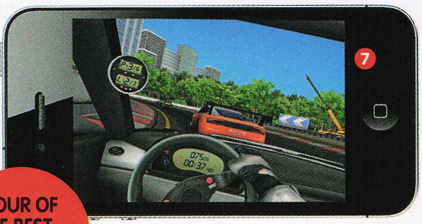
FOUR OF THE BEST... iPHONE 4 APPS

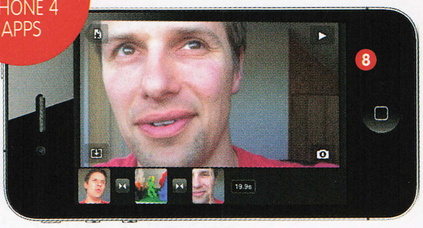


Until Tomorrow Then - Th...
by Ed Harcourt
The Beautiful Lie
by Ed Harcourt
Elephant's Graveyard
by Ed Harcourt
Strangers
by Ed Harcourt
Strangers
by Ed Harcourt
From Every Sphere
by Ed Harcourt



Me: Are you still at work.
Allan: Yes, sorry. I have to finish this project. I'll be there...





⑤ Spotify £free (+ £10/month sub)

Thanks to the new multitasking features of iOS4, Spotify's iPhone app will stream on-demand music in the background from its extensive library.

⑦ Real Racing £2.99

Graphically impressive racer from the makers of *Flight Control*, this uses the iPhone 4's gyroscope to make gesture-controlled steering much more responsive.

⑥ Fring £free

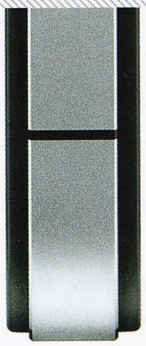
Flexible VoIP app that allows you to chat over Google Talk, use IM services such as MSN or ICQ and even make video calls to your Fring friends, all over 3G. Who needs FaceTime now?

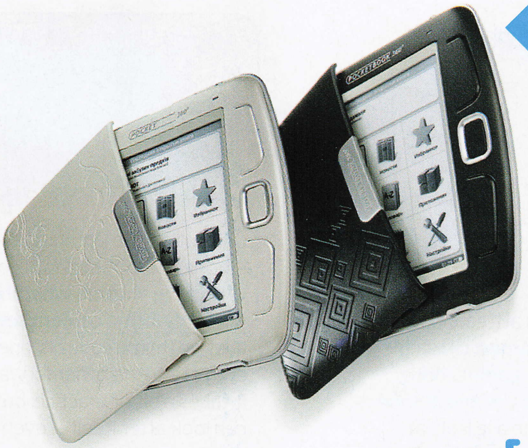
⑧ iMovie £2.99

Brilliant but limited movie editing for your iPhone's HD flicks. Stick in transitions, overlay music and create a mini doc of your day. Not quite Scorsese-level, but it's less than £3.

What to think iPhone 4 reception

The iPhone 4 is fundamentally flawed. With the metal strips around it acting as its antennae, it loses signal when held in a certain place. For a company that sells itself on engineering this is something of a disaster. Not, in our opinion, one that deserved all the mainstream news coverage it received, or the forum bile it produced. Many phones have flaws – so does this one. Vote with your wallet.





The light
Green Book Pocket 360

£190 | www.greenreader.co.uk

One of the endearing factors of old-school E Ink e-readers is that they're small, light and have a tremendous battery life – all attributes that devices such as the Apple iPad, which hopes to be the future of electronic reading, distinctly lack. The Pocket 360 is the smallest of all: smaller even than the popular Sony Reader Pocket and yet, with DRM'ed ePub support, it's capable of displaying all the same books. It's far from multi-talented, mind you – like the Pocket it's just for reading, with no MP3 bells or RSS feed whistles.

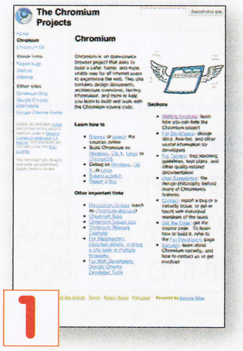
[Vs]

The heavy
iRiver Story WiFi

£250 | www.iriver.com

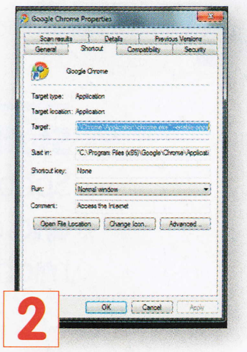
Not heavy in a physical sense – it uses the same lithe chassis as the Story we've already reviewed – but this Wi-Fi version is potentially heavy in terms of its impact on the e-reading market. Aside from the Kindle it's the only E Ink device that can download new books direct from a retailer; in this case WH Smith, which has a library of about 40,000 of them. No details yet about whether it can also subscribe to newspaper or RSS feeds, but we'll have a full review very soon.

HOW TO GET AN EARLY TASTE OF GOOGLE CHROME OS FOR WINDOWS



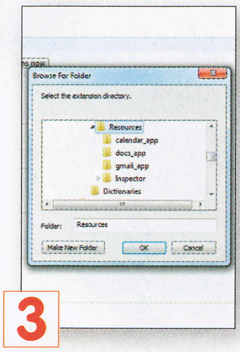
1 Download Chromium

First, go to **tinyurl.com/chromedev** and click on the Dev Channel link to download the preview version of Google Chrome. This is an experimental beta so some aspects are likely to be a tad wonky.



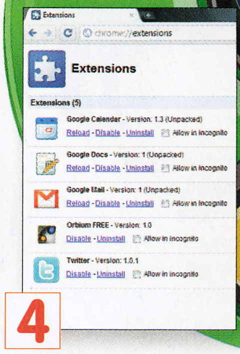
2 Edit the Target field

Once installed, right-click on the Chrome desktop shortcut and choose Properties. Add a **space** and **--enable-apps** to the end of the text in the Target field. Click Apply and hit OK. Now it's unlocked.



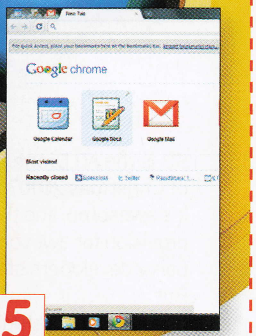
3 Dig out the web apps

Open Chrome, go to the Extensions menu and enter Developer Mode. Click on Load Unpacked Extension and navigate to Chrome's Resources folder. You should find it on your C: drive under Program Files.



4 Add the ones you want

You'll find three folders: gmail_app, calendar_app and docs_app. Click one and repeat stage 3 to add the web apps to your Extensions menu. Open a new tab and click each one you want to stick to your toolbar.



5 Test it out

Right now, Gmail, Calendar and Docs are the only web apps available from Google, but enterprising geeks are writing new widgets and games all the time and posting them to Google Groups. Go forth and beta test.

Puma phone tested
Solar-powered sports mobile
bit.ly/pumaphonereview

IN DETAIL | AUGMENTED WHIRLYBIRD

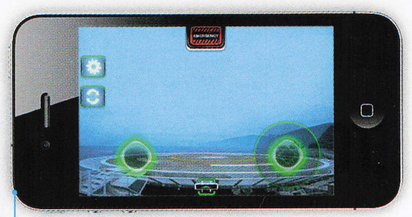
Parrot AR.Drone

£300 | www.parrot.com/uk

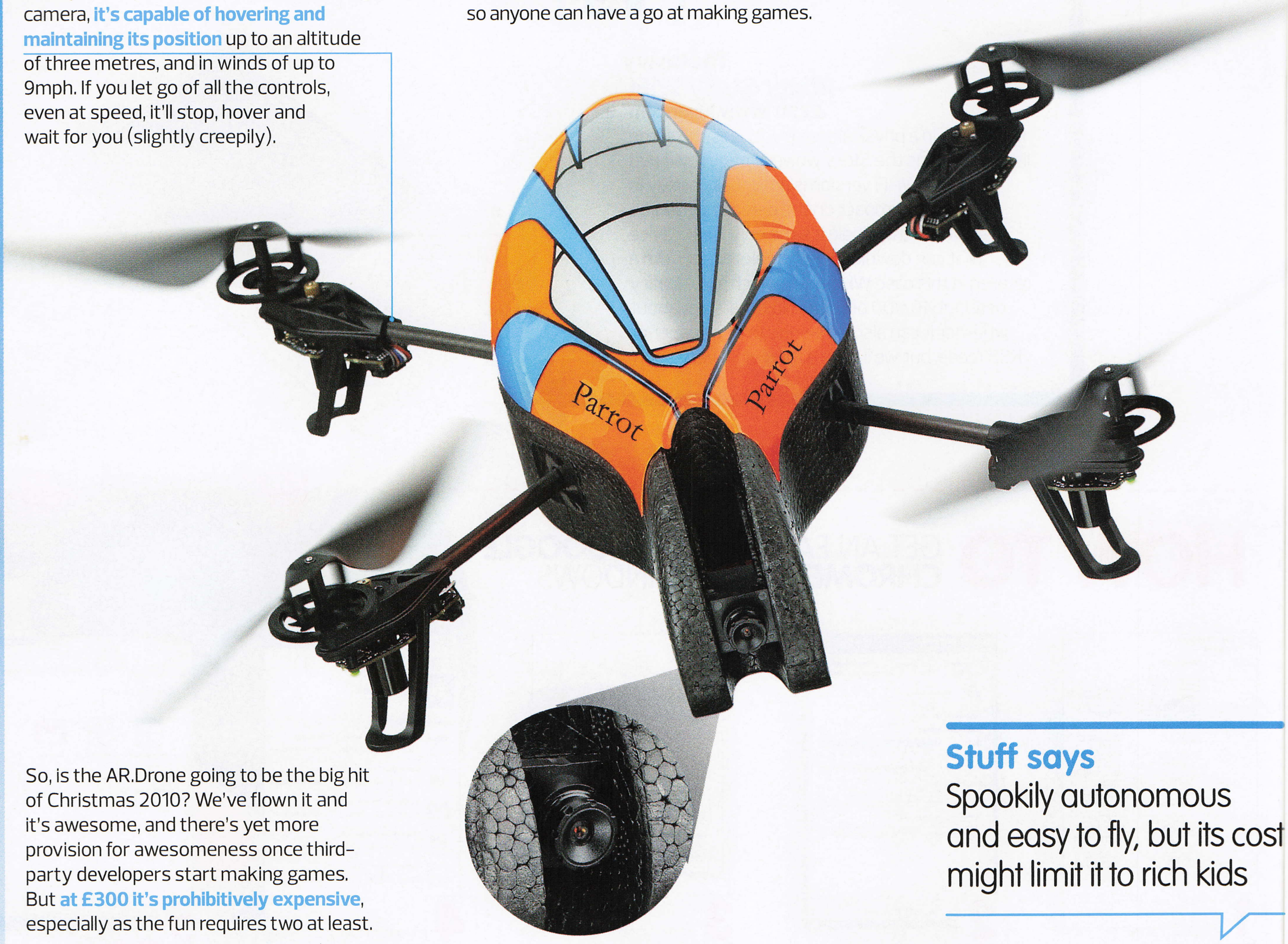
Parrot's iPhone-controlled RC flyer might well be the Furby of Christmas 2010. Read on to discover whether that's a good thing...

Don't worry if you're more Goose than Maverick: the Drone can fly itself. Using gyroscopes, accelerometers, ultrasound and optical input from a downward-facing camera, **it's capable of hovering and maintaining its position** up to an altitude of three metres, and in winds of up to 9mph. If you let go of all the controls, even at speed, it'll stop, hover and wait for you (slightly creepily).

One of the Drone's main attractions will be **augmented reality games: chasing another one around the garden, firing missiles you can only see on the iPhone screen**. Two games will be available at launch, both £2.99 in the App Store. But Parrot will be releasing a free developer kit so anyone can have a go at making games.



Controlling the Drone is done with a free iPhone or iPod Touch app, over Wi-Fi. **On screen you see what the Drone's forward-facing camera sees**, and there are two thumb controls: one for up/down and rotate, the other forward and back. It takes a bit of practice, but at least it can look after itself – even if you can't.

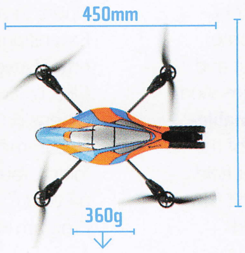


So, is the AR.Drone going to be the big hit of Christmas 2010? We've flown it and it's awesome, and there's yet more provision for awesomeness once third-party developers start making games. But **at £300 it's prohibitively expensive**, especially as the fun requires two at least.

Stuff says

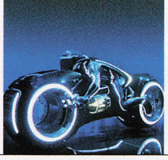
Spookily autonomous and easy to fly, but its cost might limit it to rich kids

A central pod houses the battery, electronics and cameras, with four propellers on stanchions. It comes in a choice of orange and green, yellow or blue. Garish, yes, but these colours are easily spotted by the camera for AR battles against other Drones. **For indoor flight, there's a polystyrene bumper housing**.



TECH SPECS

Range up to 50 metres in open space
Battery 12mins flying; 90mins recharge
Cameras forward: 640x480 CMOS; downward: 176x144 CMOS
Brains Parrot P6 468MHz, 128MB RAM, custom Linux OS
Structure carbon fibre tubes and reinforced plastic



POLAR
Alt.
ft
925
24.0
mph
158
HR
93
CAD
STOP
PERFORMANCE SCIENCE
LAP
NEXT
CS500

Power to the peloton
Polar CS500
£235 | www.polarelectro.co.uk

If last month's epic Tour De France has got you in the mood for shaving your legs, tech up your two-wheeler by strapping Polar's CS500 cycling computer to its handlebars. Its heart rate monitor and speed/distance sensor will keep you on top of your training, and it'll even remind you when to take a drink – because having a mouth that's drier than Ghandi's flip-flop just isn't enough.

A cry for help
Sonim XP3 Sentinel
£350 | www.sonimloneworker.com

Extreme people need extreme phones. Take Bear Grylls, for example. Give him an iPhone 4 and within minutes he'd break it trying to choke a wolf to death. But give him Sonim's world-proof Sentinel and he'd be in his element. The XP3's accelerometer isn't just for frivolous gaming; it can detect freefall and non-movement and notifies the necessary authorities in the event of an accident. It even has a red alert button to automatically send your location to the emergency services via GPS. Not that Bear Grylls would ever need help, of course. He's tougher than that.

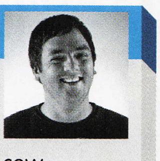
sonim
2 ABC
3 DEF
4 GHI
5 JKL
6 MNO
7 PQRS
8 TUV
9 WXYZ
0 +

OASIS
flow
Volume
Standby
Select
PURE
OASIS
flow

Modern-day tranny
Pure Oasis Flow
£180 | www.pure.com

In the 1950s, transistors were a revolution. Now Pure is giving you another chance to pay homage to the granddaddy of portable audio. It's injected its tough, splashproof Oasis with Wi-Fi-powered Flow tech, giving you bazillions of net radio stations, podcasts and Listen Again programmes, as well as DAB and FM stations. While hardly pocketable, its built-in ChargePak battery should give more than enough tuneage to host a jive hop well into the night.

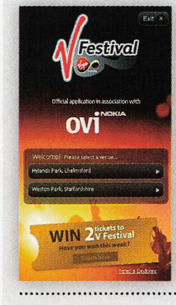
MP3 SPY

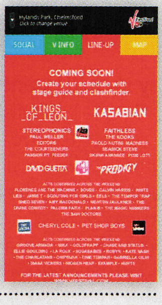


Tom Wiggins

Milking the musical cow for digital dairy

- When you're packing your bag for a festival, a mobile phone is almost as important as an industrial helping of baby wipes and plenty of cider money. So if you're heading to celeb favourite V Festival, download the Ovi app for your Nokia before you go. With a scheduler, a map of the site (to stop you getting lost and ending up watching Scouting For Girls), plus updates drawn from Twitter and Facebook, it'll have you buzzing around like you own the place – at least until your battery dies. Get it at www.vfestival.com.


Exit ×
V Festival
Official application in association with
NOKIA
OVI
Welcome! Please select a venue...
Hylands Park, Chelmsford
Weston Park, Staffordshire
WIN 2 tickets to V Festival
Have you won this week?
Terms & Conditions


Hylands Park, Chelmsford
Click to change venue
SOCIAL
V INFO
LINE-UP
MAP
COMING SOON!
Create your schedule with stage guide and clashfinder.
KINGS OF LEON
KASABIAN
STEREOPHONICS
FAITHLESS
DAVID GUETTA
THE PRODIGY
CHERYL COLE · PET SHOP BOYS
FOR THE LATEST ANNOUNCEMENTS PLEASE VISIT

- Back in the land of running water, comfy beds and expensive glowing rectangles, Manhattan-based band Francis and the Lights (www.francisandthelights.com) have launched the world's first iPad album. *It'll Be Better* is an HTML5 showcase that offers a whizzbang package of videos and tunes that can be embedded into websites or viewed on an iPad. Perhaps on the next one they'll let Steve Jobs play his kazoo.

The playlist

Songs for skinny gadgets (p.119)

1. **Eminem** *The Real Slim Shady*
2. **Bon Iver** *Skinny Love*
3. **Jurassic 5** *Thin Line*
4. **L7** *Diet Pill*
5. **The Band** *The Weight*

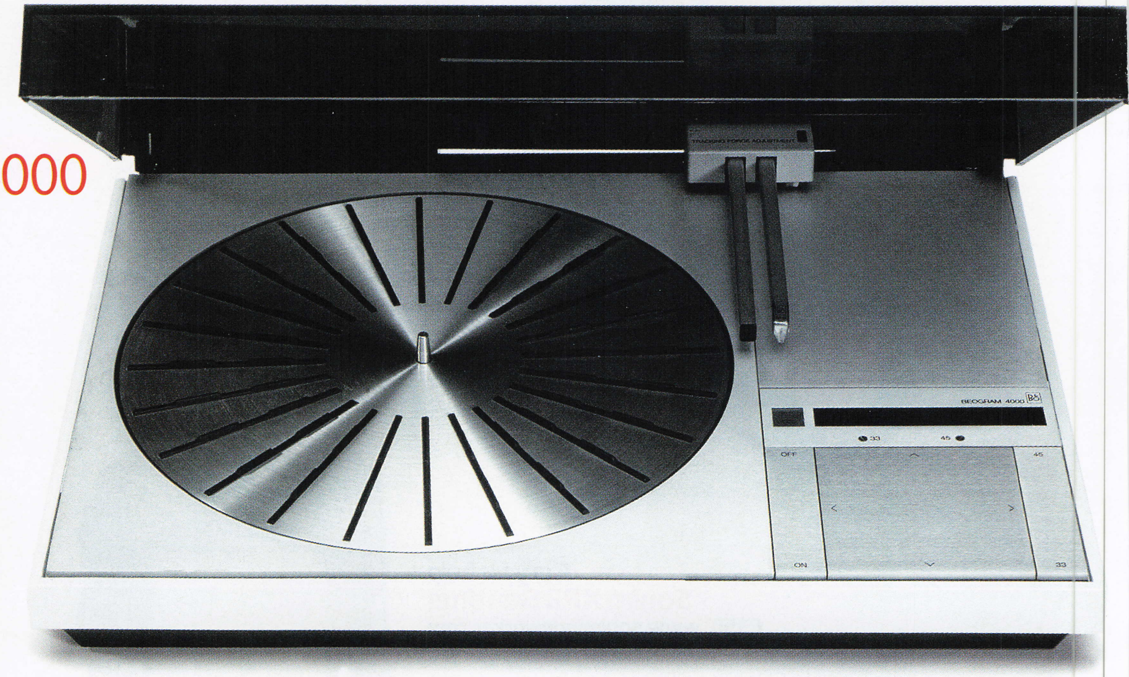
In the pipeline
LG dubs Android range "Optimus"
bit.ly/lgoptimus

Retro chic

1972

B&O Beogram 4000

eBay price **you'll be lucky**

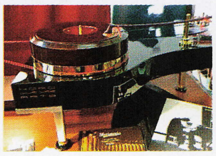


What's the story?
In 1972, turntables had barely changed for 50 years. Each deck had a platter and a tonearm that pivoted from the end. B&O wanted to make an eye-catching turntable that wouldn't skip when you danced near it, so they came up with the Beogram 4000. With its retro-futurist styling, not only did it look like a prop from a Stanley Kubrick movie, it was crammed with tech that would've had audiophiles of the time convinced it had beamed in from 2001.

Why should I want one?
The Beogram 4000 was the world's first record deck to have an electronically controlled tangential tonearm. It moved laterally towards the middle of the record, eradicating the bias that can occur from a more conventional arcing movement and making the deck much more danceproof. A second arm ran alongside it, setting the speed and ensuring the needle hit the groove. Verily, the Beogram 4000 was the stuff geeky hi-fi dreams were made of.

What to look for
You've got more chance of finding Lord Lucan quaffing unicorn milk from the Holy Grail than of tracking down a 4000. The usual channels produce nothing, though stylus specialist musonic.com will sell you a cartridge for one for £350. That's got to be a start, right? Failing that, there's one in MOMA New York. Take a few records along and maybe they'll let you have a spin.

STUFF'S FAVOURITE CRAZY TURNTABLES



Horo WJE168

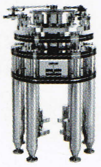
www.horomusic.com
With its miniature grand piano looks and violin bow for a tonearm, Horo's WJE168 is about as sensible as juggling wet knives while kicking a wolf in the face.

Sound Wagon

www.soundwagon.jp
Not so much a deck as a toy for playing tunes, this mini VW Camper has a stylus underneath that plays out through a built-in speaker as it races around the record.

ELP Laser Turntable

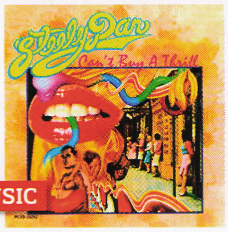
www.elpj.com
A cross between a CD player and a turntable, the ELP uses a laser to read the grooves, so your records will stay in top-notch condition.



Transrotor Artus

www.transrotor.de
Weighing in at 220kg and held together by magnets, the Artus is more time machine than turntable. And for £100k, time travel does seem a reasonable ask.

ALSO IN 1972 the Watergate scandal hits the White House, *Pong* launches in arcades, Apollo 17 lands on the moon



MUSIC

Steely Dan: Can't Buy a Thrill

The debut LP from hairy jazz-poppers Walter Becker and Donald Fagen is arguably their best. Just don't ask your dad where their name comes from. It'll only embarrass you...

FILM

Deliverance

If you go down to the woods today you're sure of a big surprise... but in *Deliverance* a gang of psychotic red-necks are intent on something much more unpleasant than teddy bears tucking into carrot batons and cake.

TV

John Craven's Newsround

Before he donned a wax jacket for *Countryfile*, John Craven kept kids up to speed with the subjects that mattered, such as panda babies. That's if they hadn't switched over to something less boring instead.

GADGET

Hewlett-Packard HP-35

The world's first scientific calculator, small enough to fit in a pocket, finally put a stop to those pesky situations when you're stranded in the middle of nowhere and need to work out the length of a hypotenuse. At last!

or the facts **drinkaware.co.uk** ©2010 InBev UK Limited, all rights reserved. Please drink responsibly.

ANNO 1366
STELLA ARTOIS
CONTAINS ONLY 4 INGREDIENTS
HOPS, MALTED BARLEY, MAIZE, WATER.
ANNO 1366
STELLA ARTOIS
She is a thing of beauty

And all because the lady loves…
Apple-loving girlgeek unboxes chocolate-covered iPad
bit.ly/chocolateipad

CALENDAR AUGUST 2010

GADGET

01

Toshiba AC100
Super-skinny, Android-powered, jaffa-accented netbook makes its debut. It's been Tangoed!

MUSIC

02

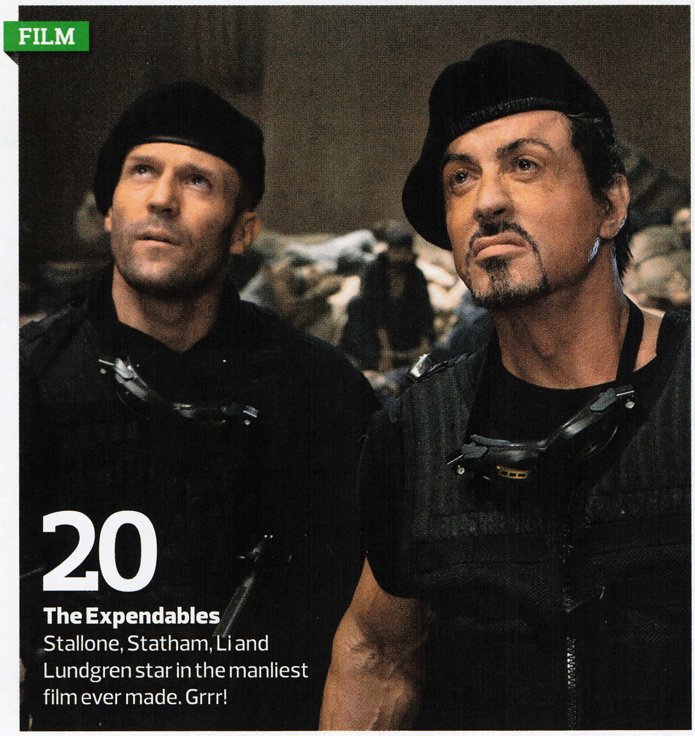
Arcade Fire: The Suburbs
The third dose of glorious racket-making from Canada's finest multi-instrumentalists

EVENT

14

Red Bull X-Fighters
High-altitude motorbike ballet returns to London's iconic Battersea Power Station

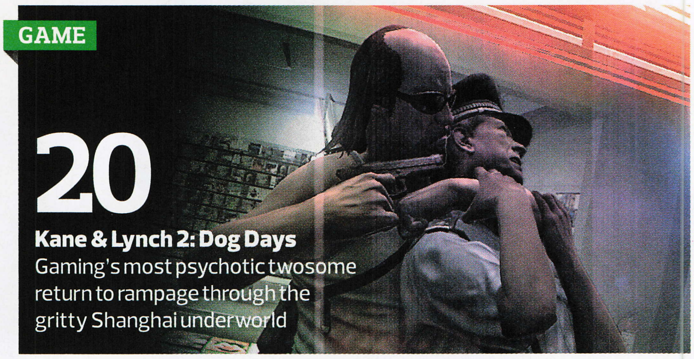
FILM



20

The Expendables
Stallone, Statham, Li and Lundgren star in the manliest film ever made. Grrr!

GAME



20

Kane & Lynch 2: Dog Days
Gaming's most psychotic twosome return to rampage through the gritty Shanghai underworld

FILM

25

Scott Pilgrim vs The World
High-kicking comic book rom-com from the director of *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz*

GAME

27

Mafia 2
Long-awaited postwar mobster sequel that wants to make you an offer you can't refuse…

INCOMING

Clear your diaries for the rest of the year: these are the only dates you really, absolutely, need to know…

GAME
SEPT 2010
HALO: REACH
It might be missing Master Chief, but series prequel *Halo Reach* is *Halo* through and through

EVENT
NOV 2010
THE STUFF AWARDS
The world's most prestigious gadget gongs draw ever closer. Staff at Stuff Towers will be buffing their bowties

GAME
NOV 2010
CALL OF DUTY: BLACK OPS
CoD goes covert for its seventh instalment. But will it be as good as *Modern Warfare 2*?

FILM
DEC 2010
TRON: LEGACY
Twenty-eight years after the cult original, Jeff Bridges is lost in the weird cyber-universe again. Careless

POS 3/6
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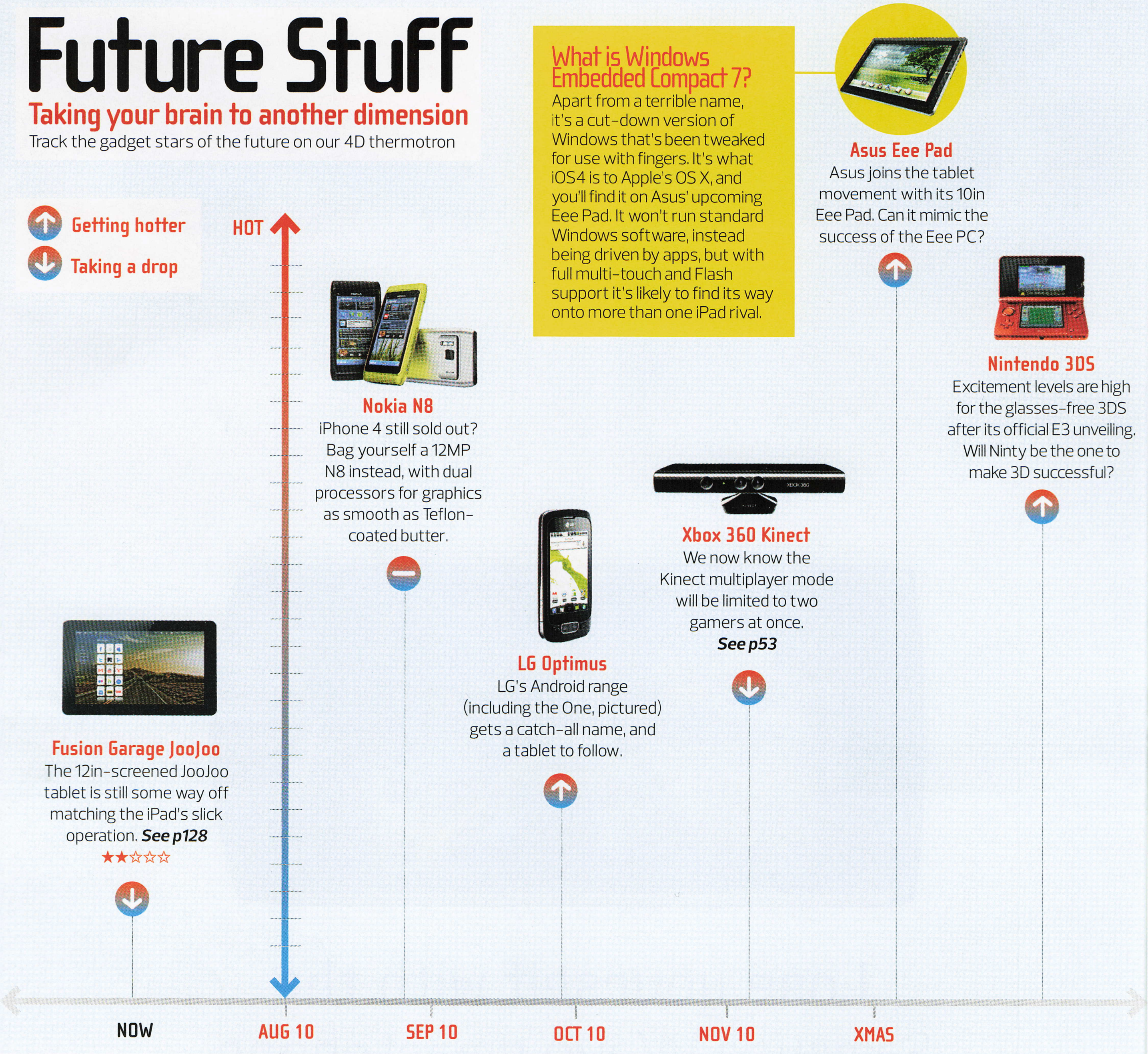
SAMSUNG
TURN ON TOMORROW

Future Stuff

Taking your brain to another dimension

Track the gadget stars of the future on our 4D thermotron



Fusion Garage JooJoo
The 12in-screened JooJoo tablet is still some way off matching the iPad's slick operation. ***See p128***
★★☆☆☆
↓

Nokia N8
iPhone 4 still sold out? Bag yourself a 12MP N8 instead, with dual processors for graphics as smooth as Teflon-coated butter.
−

LG Optimus
LG's Android range (including the One, pictured) gets a catch-all name, and a tablet to follow.
↑

Xbox 360 Kinect
We now know the Kinect multiplayer mode will be limited to two gamers at once. ***See p53***
↓

Asus Eee Pad
Asus joins the tablet movement with its 10in Eee Pad. Can it mimic the success of the Eee PC?
↑

What is Windows Embedded Compact 7?

Apart from a terrible name, it's a cut-down version of Windows that's been tweaked for use with fingers. It's what iOS4 is to Apple's OS X, and you'll find it on Asus' upcoming Eee Pad. It won't run standard Windows software, instead being driven by apps, but with full multi-touch and Flash support it's likely to find its way onto more than one iPad rival.

Nintendo 3DS
Excitement levels are high for the glasses-free 3DS after its official E3 unveiling. Will Ninty be the one to make 3D successful?
↑

Why you need to know about...

MICRONAVIGATION

> Tom Dunmore, hypertext messenger

In less than a decade, GPS has gone from military technology to commodity. While humans may struggle with existential questions, we can at least be sure that every new car and smartphone knows its exact place in the world.

But satellite navigation has its problems, and top among them is the paucity of information about what lies inside buildings and other structures. A sat-nav can take you to a shop, but it won't show you how to get around the multi-storey car park, or where the toilets are.

Fortunately, the boffins at BMW have the answer: to augment GPS with microNavigation, detailed maps of your destination that can be shared between in-car satellite navigation and smartphones. That way, you'll always know where you parked – and where you can pee.

"A sat-nav can take you to the shops, but it won't show you where the toilets are"

These micromaps can provide constantly updated information, too, making them perfect for show guides and festival plans.

Overlay microNavigation maps with real-time data on your friends' whereabouts – from FourSquare, say, or Google Latitude – and you'll never have to make another "where are you sitting?" phone call again.

BMW's microNavigation is still at the prototype stage, and it's unclear who will be supplying the data. But given Google's quest to map every inch of the planet it won't be long before our gadgets can guide us everywhere: not just door-to-door, but up and down the stairs, too.

Follow the Future Stuff blog at www.stuff.tv/blogs/future

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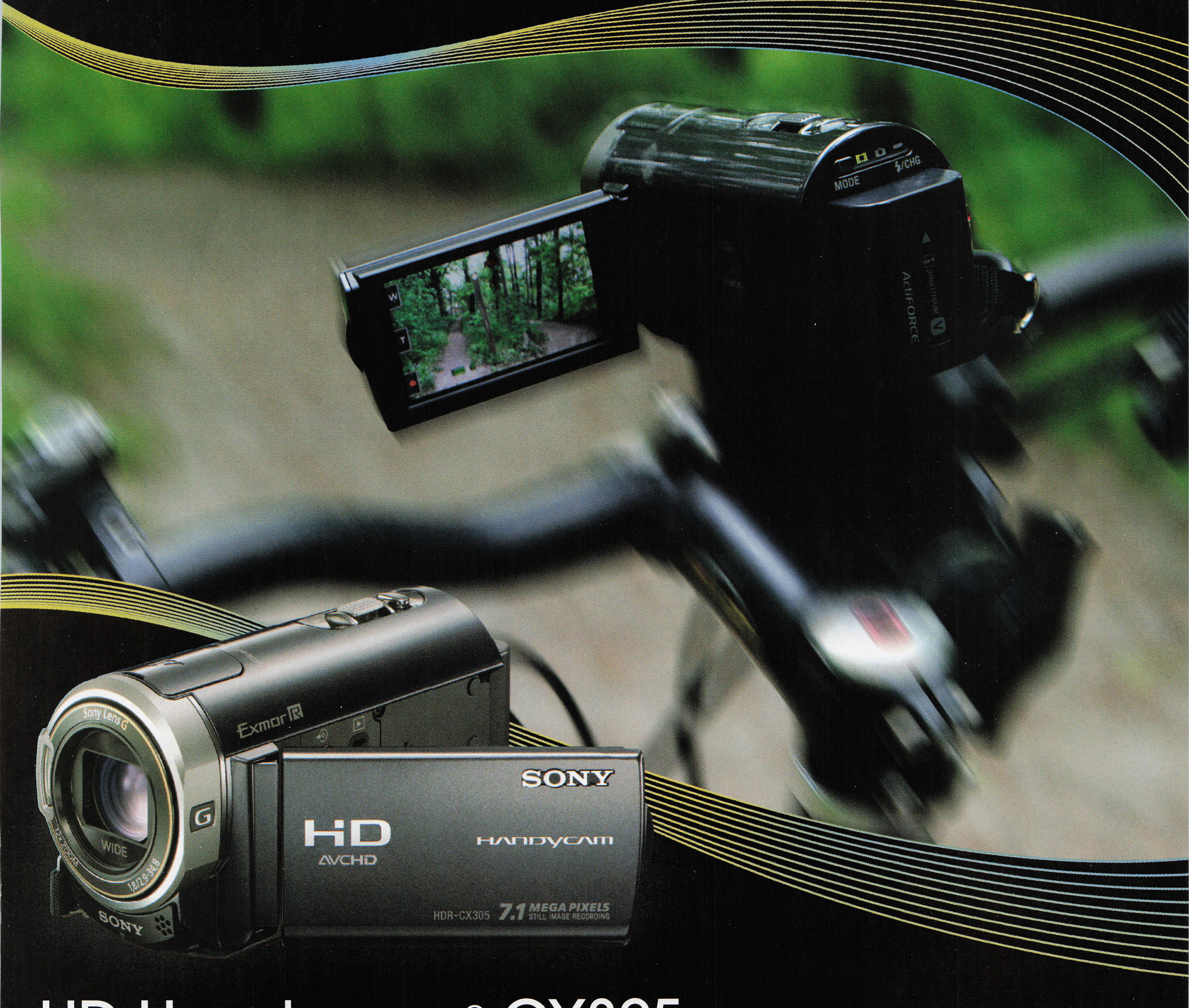

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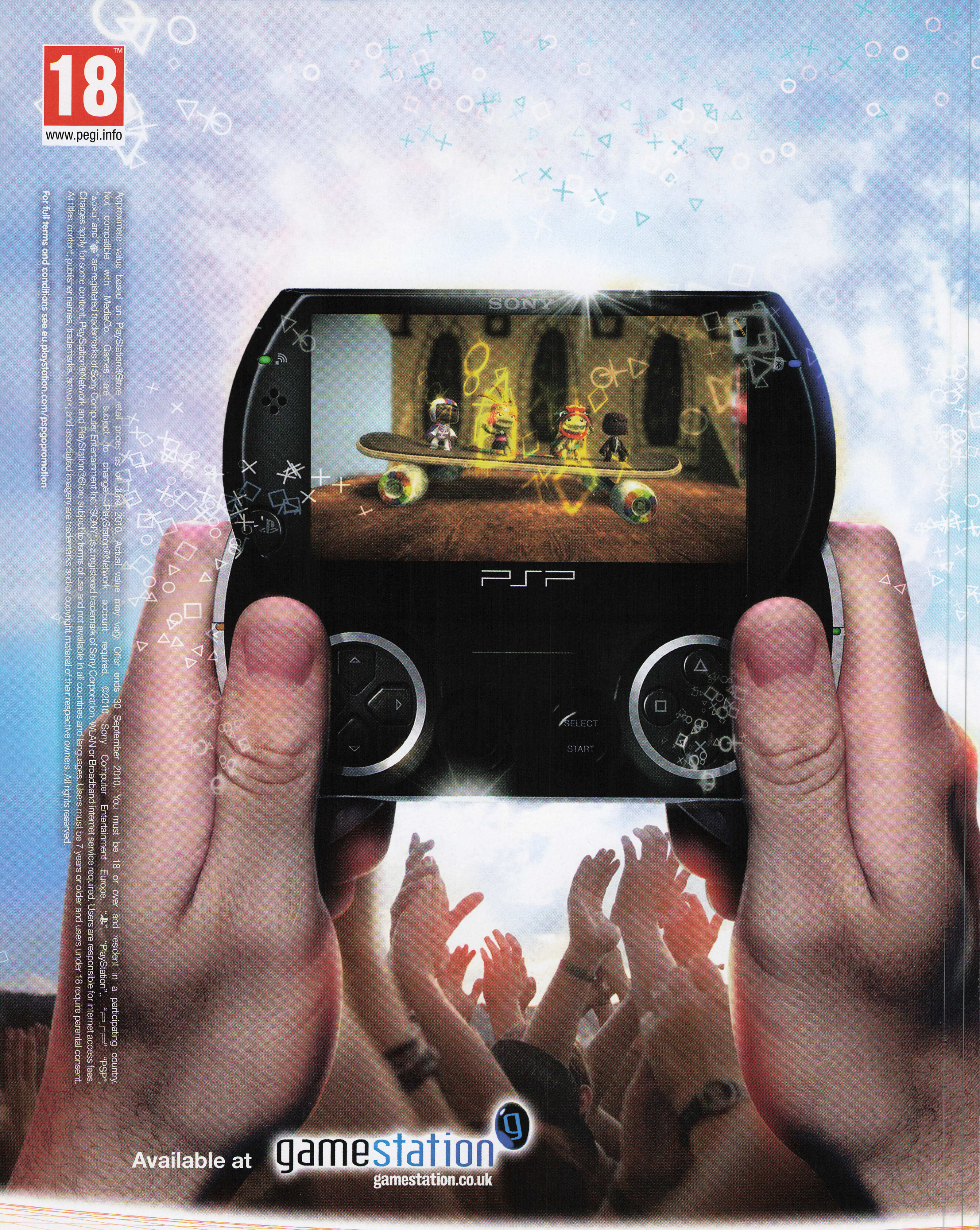

Approximate value based on PlayStation®Store retail prices as of June 2010. Actual value may vary. Offer ends 30 September 2010. You must be 18 or over and resident in a participating country. Not compatible with MediaGo. Games are subject to change. PlayStation®Network account required. ©2010 Sony Computer Entertainment Europe. “”, “PlayStation”, “PSP” “PSP”, “△○×□” and “” are registered trademarks of Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. “SONY” is a registered trademark of Sony Corporation. WLAN or Broadband internet service required. Users are responsible for internet access fees. Charges apply for some content. PlayStation®Network and PlayStation®Store subject to terms of use and not available in all countries and languages. Users must be 7 years or older and users under 18 require parental consent. All titles, content, publisher names, trademarks, artwork, and associated imagery are trademarks and/or copyright material of their respective owners. All rights reserved.

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YOUR WHOLE WORLD IN YOUR HANDS
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make.believe

FIRST TEST

SAMSUNG GALAXY S (8GB)

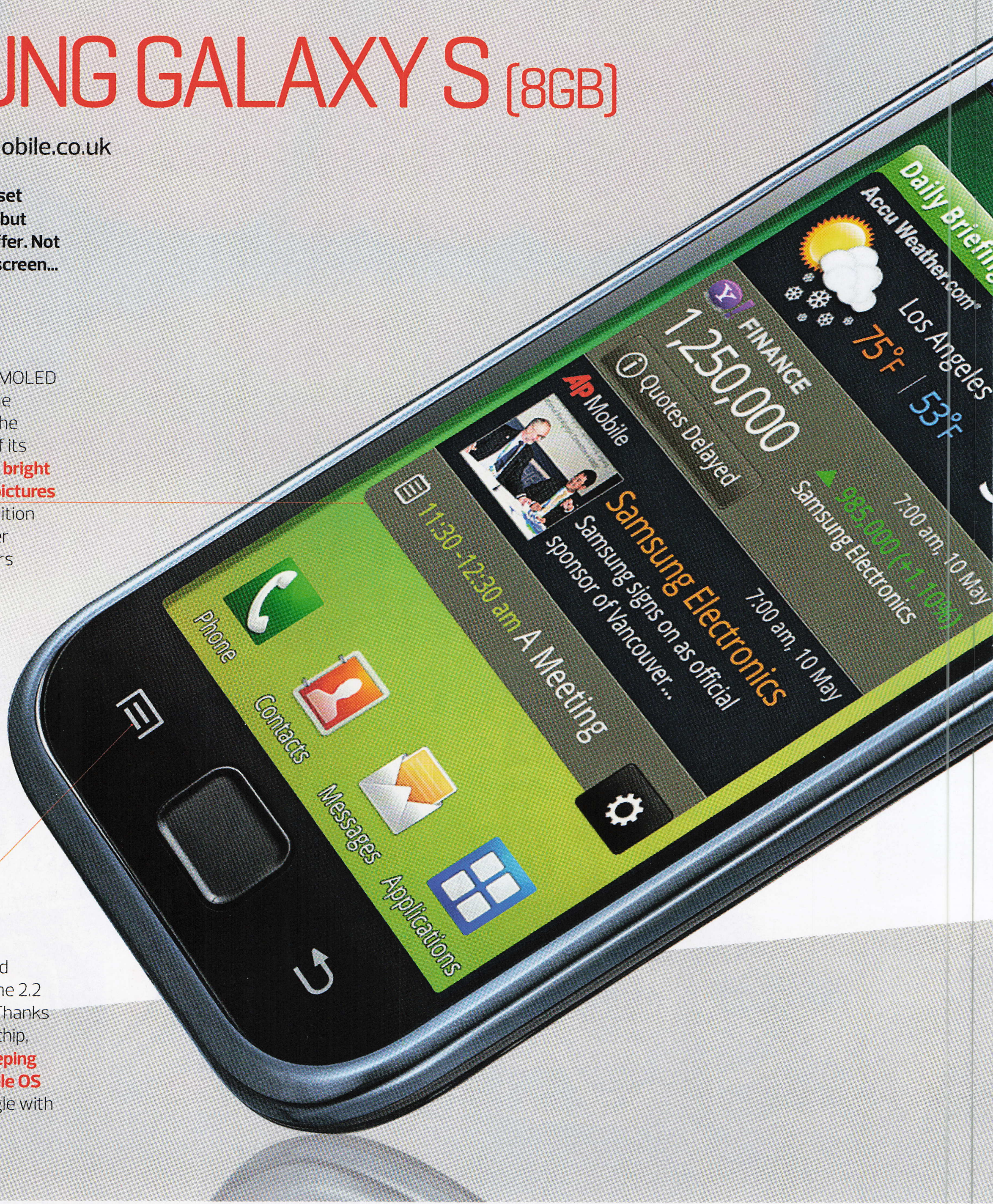
£420 | www.samsungmobile.co.uk

Samsung's latest Android handset flatters Apple with its imitation but has some treats of its own to offer. Not least a radiant Super AMOLED screen...

We've seen Samsung's Super AMOLED screen technology before, but the responsive 4in touchscreen on the Galaxy S is the best showcase of its sharpness and vibrancy. **Even in bright sunlight it's quite easy to view pictures** and read text. It has stiff competition from the iPhone 4's even sharper display, but the Galaxy S's colours are a smidge more saturated.

At 118g it's no lightweight and the back panel is flimsier than we'd like. Elsewhere it's made of sterner stuff though. There's a 3.5mm headphone socket on top and side-mounted volume and power controls. **Haptic feedback from the touch-sensitive hardkeys** is a reasurring... erm... touch.

The Galaxy S comes with Android 2.1 (Eclair), but it will be getting the 2.2 (Froyo) update later in the year. Thanks to a speedy 1GHz Hummingbird chip, **it shouldn't have any trouble keeping up with all of Google's new mobile OS tricks**. It certainly doesn't struggle with the current version.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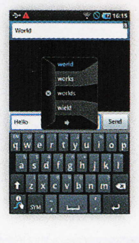
11:30 -12:30 am A Meeting
Phone
Contacts
Messages
Applications

[Words Paddy Smith]

PRICELESS APPS

Swype
pre-loaded
The Galaxy S is one of the first phones to come with Swype, a predictive text input system in which you trace a path from one letter to the next. It might just be the future of touchscreen typing.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Use Google's clever sat-nav app with Samsung's Car Home app for arm's-length phone use. The free text-to-speech add-on will help you focus on the road.

A1105
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Photoshop.com Mobile
£free
Adobe's downscaled mobile version of its creative tool lets you crop, rotate, straighten and more. FxCamera (free) and Vignette (£3) are also worth a squizz.

Exposure
Saturation
Tint
Black & White
Contrast
Brightness

SEE THE HANDS-ON VIDEO AT STUFF.TV
stuff.tv/galaxys

SAMSUNG
7:00 AM
n, 10 May
4

The 5MP snapper does a fine job, with crisp daytime shots and decent handling in low-light situations, although there is some colour saturation and noise. Recorded video is sharp and vivid at 720p, but there is judder with fast movement. As you'd expect, playback is fantastic on the big screen and the viewing angle is extensive.

We got well over a day's heavy use from the handset off a single charge. **Expect it to go for the best part of two days with moderate use**, if you can resist not playing with it non-stop, that is. Android's interactive live wallpapers were made for this device and bring the homescreen to life.

HOW IT STACKS UP

Build quality

There's no two ways about it – Sammy's latest mobile looks frighteningly like an iPhone 3GS. And while that ought to be a good thing, its build quality doesn't stand up to Apple's meticulous standards, so it feels poorer by comparison. Turn it on, though, and that big screen blows you away.

Camera

Samsung's 5MP snapper is capable of stunning results, but in the absence of a flash it struggles to produce good images in low light. Its second front-facing camera is handy for video calling but if you want an Android camphone Sony Ericsson's Xperia X10 is still top dog.

Multimedia

That 4in screen is primed for hi-def video viewing and picture perusal, and no phone out there provides a better portable movie experience. Music is well handled, too, with a slick Cover Flow-style album carousel in another homage to Apple's design ingenuity. Well, if it ain't broke...

User interface

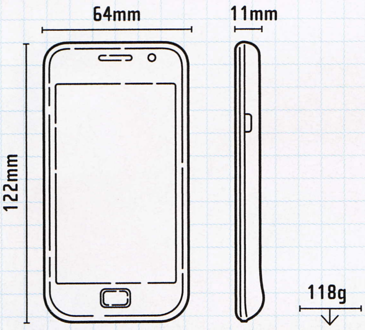
Like the Wave (p90), the Galaxy S runs Samsung's latest TouchWiz interface. Again, there's more than a nod to the iPhone's interface, most obviously in the tiled app icons. We tested an early model, so the final version is likely to run smoother, but it's no match for HTC's Sense skin.

[Vs] Sony Ericsson Xperia X10

£600 | www.sonyericsson.com

If this was simply about cameras, the Sony's 8.1MP antics would take the spoils. But the Samsung edges this fight with its better screen and more recent version of Android. The Sony won't get Eclair until the end of the year, when the Galaxy S will be rocking the superior Froyo. ★★★★☆

TECH SPECS: SAMSUNG GALAXY S



Display 4in, 480x800 capacitive Super AMOLED touchscreen
OS Android 2.1 (Eclair), will get Froyo update
Storage 8GB (16GB optional) + microSD
Camera 5MP, plus front-facing VGA
Video 720p@30fps
Connectivity A-GPS, Bluetooth 3.0, TV-out, USB, Wi-Fi (802.11 b/g/n)
Sensors Accelerometer, compass
Battery 6.5hrs talk, 576hrs standby

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

It's not the most original design, but all sins are forgiven the moment you fire up that gloriously big, bright screen

Samsung Galaxy S The first hour

- **01** It's an iPhone! Wait, there's a Samsung logo here
- **05** This back cover won't stop any bullets
- **12** You could blind yourself with that screen
- **16** Uh-oh, there's a Samsung app store...
- **20** ...but it's OK, and Android Market is also present
- **34** Silky multi-touch skills on the photo viewer
- **40** Touch-focus on the 5MP snapper – nice
- **45** Plus it records HD video at 720p
- **47** Things look lovely on that 4in AMOLED screen
- **60** The battery is holding up very, very well...

SONY
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α

Performs like a pro, feels like a compact.

The world's smallest interchangeable lens camera*

Imagine professional photography without the confusion. With the Sony NEX-5, ultra-fast response times allow you to freeze split-second moments instantly and in perfect focus. This is photography defined by your imagination, from the world's smallest interchangeable lens digital camera* with full HD movie recording.

www.sony.co.uk/nex-5

NEX-5

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GADGET + DOCTOR

Email the experts **stuff@haymarket.com**

MAIL OF THE MONTH

Vent your anguish and you might win a Vita Audio R2i DAB/FM Radio

I've not got game

Q I must own just about every gaming platform out there. However, I am by no stretch of the imagination a "gamer". Probably due to being the wrong side of 40 with a full-time job, a mortgage and a family to maintain. If I have time to grab 30 minutes with a controller in hand then I've scored! The frustrating thing is not being able to put in the hours, which means I'm first to be splattered over cyber-space and last in the races, bouncing off every wall and barrier on the track. There must be some games out there that don't require the player to be the mutant love child of Sigourney Weaver and the Stig? Help me find them!

John Robbo

A You have two options: find a group of similarly afflicted friends who provide a fairer match than the mephedrone-addled teens that populate online games, or take up Bridge. The kids will never have the patience. In any case, you should feel like a winner, as you've just bagged a lovely DAB radio.

iPhone augmentation

Q Since the iPad and iPhone 4 do (more or less) the same things, here is a brilliant accessory for someone to make: a thin and sexy 9in, upscaling LCD screen with multi-touch, into which the iPhone 4 slips and connects. Include an SD slot, USB and accessible battery. Should cost £150ish. You'd have the best of both (3G, FaceTime, nice big screen) for half the money. If anyone does make this, remember it's my IP, but I'm open to offers.

Philip Izsatt

A A very good idea you've had there, Philip – we'll take the lot, and throw our big, oblong magnifying glasses into the sea.

How the FLAC do I play?

Q I have spent hours converting my CDs into lossless FLAC format to use with my Squeezebox in the lounge – all is well with that. I was just wondering if you could recommend the best way that I could now use all these FLAC files on the go in my car?

Richard Pigg

A Unfortunately there's no plug 'n' play head unit that'll decode your FLACs, Richard (those listed on FLAC's website are discontinued), so your best bet is to get yourself a car stereo with an analogue input and a FLAC-playing PMP. Cowon's S9 is probably the best-sounding FLAC player

Ears a problem for ya

Q My ears create a problem for me. Small in-ears always fall out and never feel secure. So I resorted to buying a pair that wrap around the back of my neck, but these too drive me mad as they're still always falling out. The problem I face is having one ear positioned higher than the other. I can't find a pair which are small, secure and discreet that will fit in my ears. Am I doomed to never listening to music in comfort ?

Andrew Gibbon

A We'd recommend trying some earloop designs. Our favourites are Creative's Aurvana Airs, which sound brilliant, are super-light and can be had for £80 (down from £170). Bargain.

Bigger pockets needed

Q About a year ago I began a search for a new mobile phone. Instead of a smartphone that could do everything, I wanted the opposite: a basic mobile that was tiny. Alas, it was a futile venture. Desktops are now netbooks, deep CRT TVs have become 8mm thick LED TVs, but mobile phones seem to be growing. Obviously, I gave in and bought an iPhone and fell in love with it. But I still harbour a need for a small mobile. What is the smallest phone that has ever been on the market?

Wil Chung

SAMSUNG mobile
SAMSUNG

A The slimmest ever is Samsung's 5.9mm-thin SGH-U100. Haier's Elegance, as used by *Stuff*'s Tony Horgan, is probably the smallest overall.

Not shy about Wi-Fi hi-fi

Q I want to find a Wi-Fi sound system which is economical and allows me to play music around my flat wirelessly using my iPhone, MacBook and Sony Bravia TV.

Kishore Reddy

A Straight to the point, eh, Kishore? If you're looking for a home media store, you need something that shares media over UPnP. Your MacBook can do this with free XBMC software, or you could get a DLNA-certified network-attached storage such as Buffalo's LinkStation Pro (it's about £160 for 1TB) and stream from that. Add the PlugPlayer app to your iPhone and that'll be able to access your tunes as well.

Solve my WWWwoes

Q My other half is on the verge of driving over her two-year-old laptop because it's too slow on the internet. I have £300 max for a netbook and I'm trying to convince her Windows is the problem too. Any suggestions?

James Gleeson

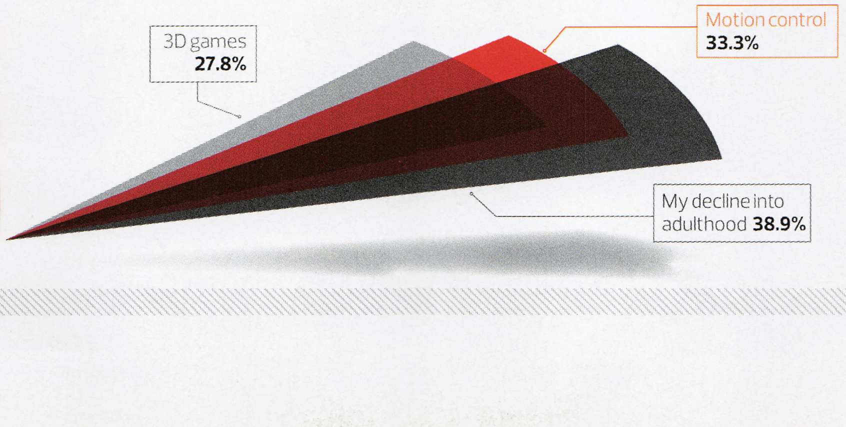
A Before killing the laptop, try a few things. Download a new browser – Chrome, or Firefox. Ditch the bloatware – get the programs running in its system tray to a bare minimum. Plug in via Ethernet to check whether the laptop's Wi-Fi is at fault. Defrag the hard drive. Upgrade the RAM. If all else fails, install Windows 7 (it's quicker than Vista) or get a Samsung N220 netbook. Yes, it's Windows, and it's ace.

Stuff.tv

HYPE-O-TRON

What's going to change the way you game the most?

Join the debate at **stuff.tv/forums**



Nikon
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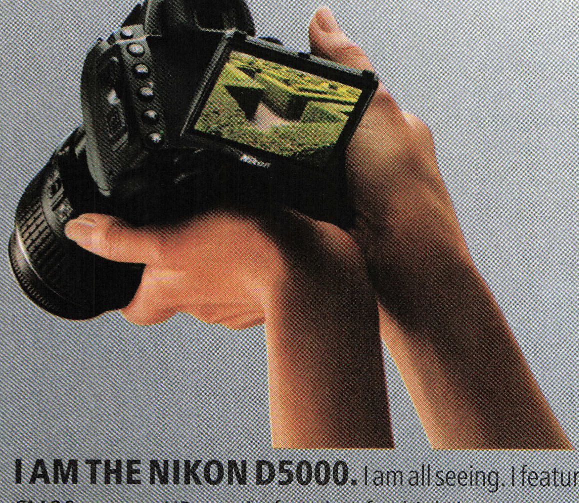
I AM INNOVATION



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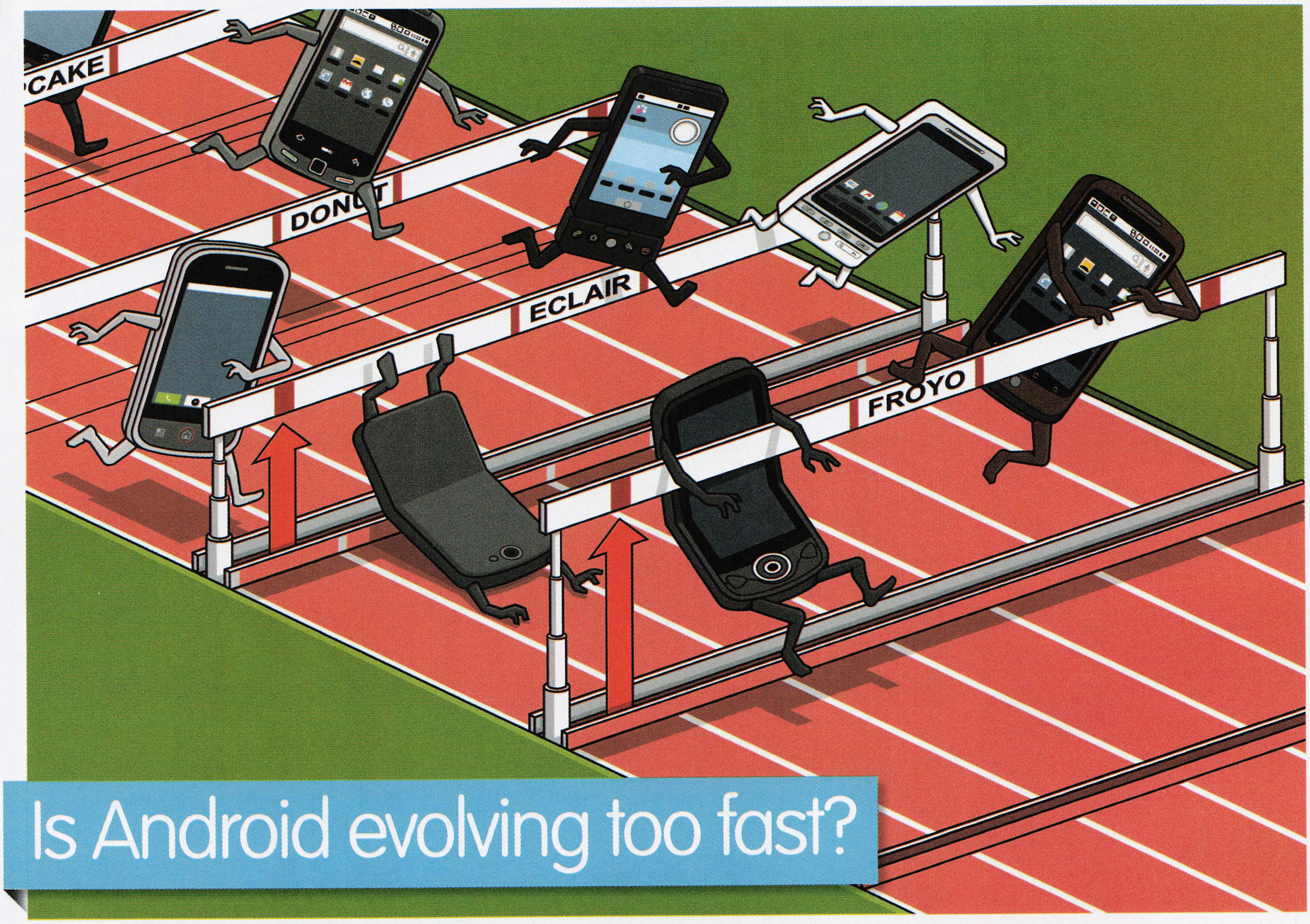


[illustration nathandaniels.com]

Is Android evolving too fast?

Mark Wilson says Android's constant OS updates are bad for developers and phone buyers...

...but Fraser Macdonald thinks it's a sign of a thriving platform that will soon overtake the iPhone

MW I love Android. Google's little green guy has inspired some of the finest smartphones known to man, not to mention an array of tablets. But we've had five dessert-themed releases since April '09, with "Gingerbread" 3.0 to follow later this year. Manufacturers can't keep up, and new phones are outdated before they've hit the shelves. Androidians are starting to feel disillusioned, and rightly so.

FM Heresy! How can anything evolve too fast? I want update after update to hit my tiny mind so fast that I burst into fits of giggles and yell: "Stop! It tickles!" Android 2.2 just hit my Nexus One and I'm still gleefully opening and closing things to test the performance upgrades, marvelling at my Google Maps live wallpaper. How can wonders like that come too frequently, Mark?

MW I'm not anti-progress, I just think all Android owners should be able to pluck its ripest fruits. That won't happen as long as Google leaves it to manufacturers to decide when they'll make skins like HTC Sense play nice with the latest update. And it gets worse: the rumoured specs required to run Gingerbread 3.0 (3.5in screen, 1GHz processor) will make the brand-new HTC Legend virtually obsolete by Christmas. Surely, in the age of two-year contracts, that's wrong?

FM But it's the frequent roll-out of new updates and devices that means Android fans are guaranteed the latest and greatest when their contract is up. It's an open-source OS with a bustling community of developers who can offer their advances out to any number of Android-loving manufacturers. Contrast that with Apple, where a comparatively small core of coders work away on something like iOS4 knowing that Apple won't release it until it makes the most profit. All power to them, from a business point of view; not so groovy if you're a consumer looking for something new to play with.

MW That sounds great in theory, but a huge chunk of Android users can't access the new toys you speak of – according to Google, just under half of the world's Android phones are still on "Donut" 1.6. Yet iOS4 works on the iPhone 3G from over two years ago; that's a much more reasonable product cycle. And Android's splintering isn't great for developers, either. Why make a snazzy app for Froyo 2.2 when it won't be visible to most users in Marketplace?

FM You know what, Mark? You're right. Android does need to slow down and consolidate. Why the sudden change of heart? Firstly, because Google has just announced it's going to limit update releases to fewer than two a year in order to allow developers to flourish. But more importantly, the proposed slow-down of Android is a sign that it's succeeding. In a couple of years of furious development and launches, the little green robot has wound itself up to a speed matching that of the iPhone. Only good things can come of this...

Stuff.tv
Join the debate at Stuff.tv/forums

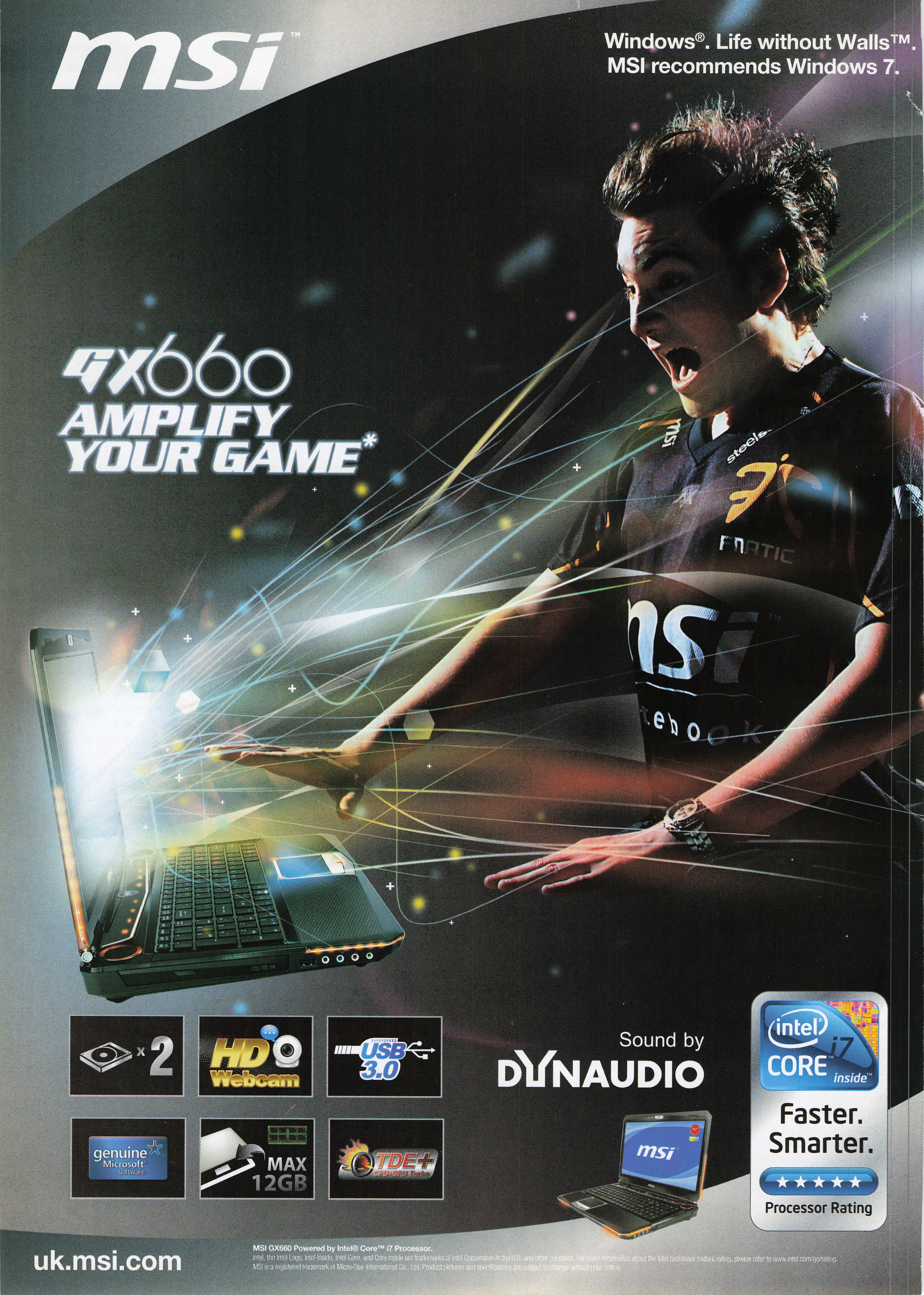
What you said...

"Google is always pushing the envelope. Sure, its support sucks, but it's getting there and is trying to deliver a stable platform and bleeding-edge tech simultaneously. Am I willing to upgrade my phone every 12-18 months? Hell yeah!"
Rabobi

"Google is brilliant. Android's not evolving too fast, it's moving in sync with new ideas and functionalities."
MillionMilesAnHour

"Everyone would benefit from yearly minimum milestone OS upgrades."
DrunkenMax

Evolve or die. The same Darwinian concepts apply in technology and business as they do in the natural world.
Ttreb



msi™

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
MSI recommends Windows 7.

GX660
AMPLIFY
YOUR GAME*

x 2

HD Webcam

SUPERSPEED USB 3.0

genuine Microsoft software

MAX 12GB

TDE+ CPU+GPU Turbo

Sound by
DYNAUDIO

intel® CORE™ i7 inside™
Faster.
Smarter.
★★★★★
Processor Rating

uk.msi.com

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5 WAYS GAMING HAS CHANGED FOREVER

The world of gaming has always advanced at a quick rate, but this year it deserves a rosette and a trophy. Gaming will never be the same, and it's all down to the advances you'll read about on the following nine pages…

In association with msi

Words Will Findlater, Ellie Gibson, Richard Leadbetter
Model pictures David Venni
Art direction Phill Fields
Produced by Amanda Davies @ Red
Hair & make-up Krystle G @ Red
Styling Vicki Hillman @ Era
Model Fiona Brattle @ Storm
Location www.amazingspace.co.uk

Pink and black V-neck dress, Bernshaw, www.bernshaw.com

1 MOVEMENT

The Wii proved gaming can be a whole body affair – and that millions prefer it that way

Its arrival meant complex 16-button joypads were tossed out of the window in favour of a new control interface: a motion-sensitive remote that revolutionised the way we interact with games. Bundled with the iconic *Wii Sports*, Nintendo's console introduced a new wave of accessibility and user-friendliness into video games: button-press combinations were replaced with gestures, on-screen avatars (or "Miis") mimicked the actions you took with the controller. Motion control became the biggest revolution in gaming since the transition from 2D "sprites" to 3D polygons.

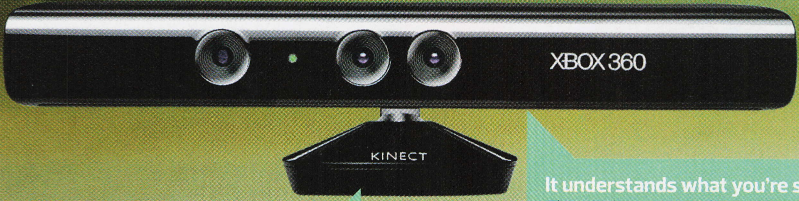
Four years on, Nintendo's rivals are finally responding. Sony's retort is PlayStation Move: a suspiciously Wiimote-like device that's paired with the PlayStation Eye camera to incorporate both motion control and real-life video directly into its new wave of games. For its part, Microsoft has sought to take things a step further with Kinect for Xbox 360: a 3D camera-based system that tracks the entire human body, no controller required. We sense a motion control war brewing...

ANATOMY OF A GAME-CHANGER:

KINECT FOR XBOX 360

£tba | www.xbox.com
Due November

It "sees" in three dimensions
Kinect is the first mass-market "3D" camera, so called because in addition to producing the conventional webcam image, it also creates a "depth map". This means that the Xbox 360 knows how far away from the camera any given pixel is.



It understands what you're saying
The skeletons are then transplanted in-game with Xbox 360 Avatars mimicking your movements exactly. On top of the motion tracking, Kinect also has a microphone for voice recognition, supporting a number of different languages.

It recognises your friends
With the depth map, in-built software detects up to six people in the scene, with gameplay controlled by up to two of them. The human shapes are transformed into 20-point skeletons and individual points are tracked to judge movement.

Lace dress, Liquorish,
www.liquorishonline.com

MOTION TIMELINE

JULY 2003

Conceived in 1999, Sony's EyeToy combined clever software with a conventional webcam to bring early motion-control gaming to PS2.

MAY 2005

PS3 is announced at the E3 tradeshow, and with it a controller prototype with motion control built in: the ill-fated SixAxis.

SEPT 2005

Nintendo reveals the look of its new console in May at the E3 tradeshow, but the Wiimote is revealed in September at the Tokyo Game Show.

NOV 2006

Wii ships and is a huge hit, with *Wii Sports* defining the beginnings of the motion control generation. PS3's SixAxis is barely used in its launch line-up.

JULY 2007

Nintendo supplements the Wiimote with the Balance Board, designed for *Wii Fit*. It detects motion via the movement of mass on the board.

JUNE 2009

E3 showcases the rivals' response to Wii. Sony's glowing wand doesn't make the same impact as Microsoft's sci-fi "Project Natal" motion camera.

MARCH 2010

Sony gives the first in-depth demonstration of PlayStation Move at GDC 2010. A handful of Sony titles are shown to invited journalists.

JUNE 2010

Project Natal is renamed Kinect. Microsoft's own studios along with third party publishers reveal a range of games: dance, sports and even driving.

THE MOTION CONTROL WAR

NINTENDO WIIMOTE

£FREE WITH CONSOLE
£32 PER CONTROLLER
OUT NOW

THE TECH

Uses Bluetooth to send button press info and data from on-board accelerometers back to the console. A sensor bar on your TV tracks infra-red signals, judging your distance from the screen and allowing you to point at menus.

SPECIAL SKILL

Wii MotionPlus adds exact motion tracking and Wii Balance Board makes the likes of *Wii Fit* possible.

PROS

- The software is varied, unique and second to none
- Basic Wii remote and nunchuk come packaged with the console

CONS

- Balance Board and MotionPlus need to be bought separately
- Wii is a go-faster GameCube; tech hails from the late '90s

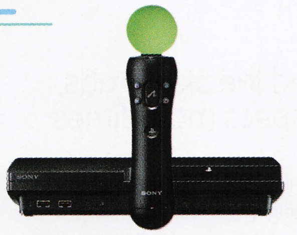
UPCOMING KEY GAMES

The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword
Due: 2011
Zelda's gameplay is intrinsically tied to motion controls: the sword moves 1:1 with your real-life motions while the nunchuk controls Link's shield.

Kirby's Epic Yarn
Due: Autumn
The blobby hero is back in a new 2D adventure set in a world made entirely of fabric (yarns, get it?). Beautiful, charming and original, this showcases everything Ninty does best.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Nintendo is planning a "vitality sensor" for fitness games which measures pulse-rate. In the long-term, expect a Wii HD.



PLAYSTATION MOVE

STARTER PACK £50
CONTROLLER ONLY £25
OUT 17 SEPTEMBER

THE TECH

Bluetooth transmits button and accelerometer data to the console. For extra precision, Move also uses a magnetometer (compass). The glowing ball is tracked by PlayStation Eye for depth and motion detection-checking.

SPECIAL SKILL

Augmented Reality gameplay, with the controller exchanged on-screen with in-game graphics.

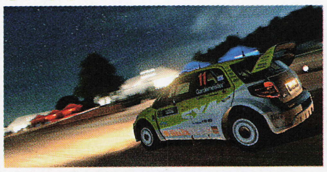
PROS

- The most accurate controller with sub-millimetre precision
- Augmented Reality works astonishingly well

CONS

- The starter kit is £50
- The Navigation Controller, needed for traditional games, is another £25

UPCOMING KEY GAMES



Start the Party
Due: Sept 17
A collection of addictive mini-games that make the most of Move's ultra-precision and Augmented Reality, as the wand becomes anything from a paint brush to a fly swatter.

Gran Turismo 5
Due: Nov 26
Many of Sony's traditional games like *Little Big Planet 2* will be Move compatible. *GT5* also uses the Eye for head-tracking, adjusting the viewpoint depending on where you look.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Sony has demoed upper-body motion tracking using two Move controllers and face-tracking techniques. Now add 3D...

KINECT FOR XBOX 360

PRICE £TBA
OUT NOVEMBER 2010

THE TECH

The 3D camera transmits a 2D image and a 3D map of the scene. From the data, human skeletons are interpreted, with movement and gestures recognised by the software. It also recognises your face, sex and even if you're smiling.

SPECIAL SKILL

No controller required. Some games auto-detect new players and kick in split-screen automatically.

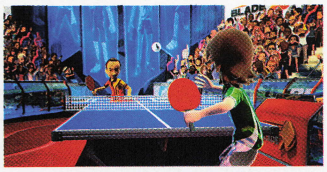
PROS

- Fresh, original and accessible
- One Kinect, multiplayer games
- Voice recognition = more unique gaming options

CONS

- Lag. Takes up to 1/5th of a second to track movements
- No hand- or finger-scanning makes intricate control difficult

UPCOMING KEY GAMES



Kinect Sports
Due: Autumn
MS's answer to *Wii Sports* is a collection of attractive, fun mini-games that also serve to give you a great work-out. Produced by ex-Nintendo and *GoldenEye* developer, Rare.

Dance Central
Due: Autumn
Groove along to the on-screen dancers, with your skills judged with Kinect precision. From the creators of *Rock Band* and *Guitar Hero*, Harmonix, it also has a sensational soundtrack.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Could provide Windows OS with gesture control. MS is also refining Kinect so, for example, it works better when players are sitting.

2

3D

You've seen the movies and the Sky TV ads, and you've worn the daft specs many times

You already know 3D is a big deal. So you'll be unsurprised to hear that stereoscopic 3D is the future of gaming. The theory goes that as games are an active form of entertainment, 3D is even better suited to the medium, and games developers are eager to flaunt what they can do with it. From what we've already seen, interacting with 3D environments is a much more intense experience than passively watching a movie. In fact, gaming is where 3D is at its most exciting.

Sony is pushing particularly hard, positioning PlayStation 3 as the only machine that can deliver. However, the tech has also been available to Xbox 360 and PC owners for a while. Unlike either console, PC gamers get the benefit of 1920x1080p Full HD to each eye.

The only question is whether gamers are willing to pay the price. Enjoying games in three dimensions means investing in an expensive 120Hz-capable or polarising TV and glasses for each player – unless you opt for the Nintendo 3DS, that is. With no specs required, it has the potential to make serious waves.

GET 3D...

ON YOUR PS3

THE KIT YOU NEED

Sony KDL-46HX803

£2200 | sony.co.uk

There's debate over just how hi-res the PS3 can go in 3D; some suggest 720p is the max, others claim 1080p is possible. In any case, getting it is a simple case of having up-to-date firmware and a 3D-capable TV, such as this 46in Sony.

BEST NEW GAME

Killzone 3 (Feb 2011)

The deliriously explosive *Killzone* series will bring the first-person shooter into the third dimension.

ON YOUR XBOX 360

THE KIT YOU NEED

Samsung LE46C8000

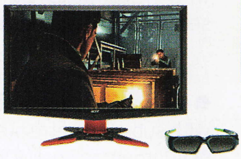
£2000 | samsung.co.uk

The Xbox lacks the power for stereoscopic 1080p – 720p HD is the max – but this ultra-slim 46in LED LCD will upscale whatever is sent to it, even converting flat images to 3D.

BEST NEW GAME

Crysis 2 (autumn)

The PC-only original's silicon-frying graphics are the stuff of legend, and this multi-platform 3D shooter will squeeze every drop of capability from the Xbox 360.



ON YOUR PC

THE KIT YOU NEED

Acer GD245HQ + Nvidia 3D Vision

£420 | amazon.co.uk

A modern PC with Nvidia GeForce graphics can render stereoscopic 3D in true 1080p. With current drivers it'll also be compatible with any 3D TV, but for a dedicated option, the 3D Vision kit and 24in GD245HQ are the way.

BEST NEW GAME

Mafia II (August)

Combines gunfights, car chases, hand-to-hand combat and a rich narrative in one great-looking package.

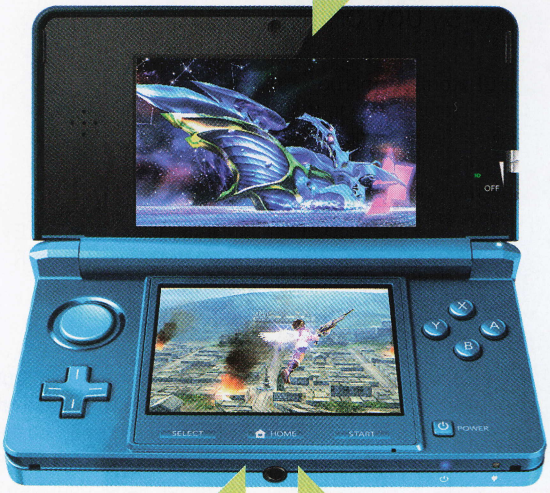
WHAT'S NEXT?

Specs-free 3D on bigger screens is the next target. The "sweet spot" that lenticular screens have, whereby only users sat centrally in relation to the screen get the best 3D effect, is the biggest hurdle. Microsoft recently unveiled a prototype solution that tracks head movements and adjusts the screen's prismatic overlay to compensate, which could help in the long run; for the next few years, though, you'll be needing the goggles.

ANATOMY OF A GAME-CHANGER: NINTENDO 3DS

£tba | www.nintendo.com

Due spring 2011



It provides 3D, minus the specs
This 3.5in, 800x240 lenticular LCD directs 400 vertical lines to each eye, so you can see 3D images on it without glasses. There's a central "sweet spot" where the 3D effect is most pronounced. The 3in lower screen is touch-sensitive.

It's a 3D camera, too
The 3DS has three 0.3MP cameras, the two on the lid primed for 3D stereo photos which can be viewed on the top screen. Other treats include motion-sensitivity via a gyroscope and accelerometer, which should empower Wii-style gaming.

It's not all about 3D
There's a switch that allows you to adjust the level of the 3D effect. Handy if you prefer a subtler look, or if your eyes feel more comfortable with the 3D toned down. You can even turn the effect off altogether if you'd prefer to stick with trad 2D.

CHOICE 3DS GAMES

Metal Gear Solid: Snake Eater 3D
The stealth action hero returns in this gorgeous-looking title. It's directed by series creator Hideo Kojima so expect superb gameplay, stunning visuals and impressive cut-scenes, plus a few surprises in the plot.

Mario Kart 3DS
Every new Nintendo machine deserves a Mario Kart and the 3DS is no exception. Leading the pack while watching your back for those red shells will be even more unnerving in 3D. Also, a 3D edition of dimension-flipping *Paper Mario*.

Kid Icarus: Uprising
Of the games unveiled at Nintendo's E3 press conference, this one received the biggest cheer from the hardcore audience. Aerial and ground-based combat are promised, and the style should appeal to Japanophiles.

Black and white strapless dress, Bernshaw, www.bernshaw.com

3D TIMELINE

1983
As *Jaws 3-D* hits cinemas Atari releases *I, Robot*, the first videogame to feature solid 3D polygons and camera control options. Utterly baffling.

1988
SegaScope 3-D launches for the Master System. LCD shutter glasses enable users to play *Out Run* and *Missile Defense* in 3D. Doesn't catch on.

1991
Virtuality machines based on Amiga tech appear. Using a head-mounted display and joystick, players explore the worlds of *Grid Busters*.

1993
First-person shooter *Doom* is released. Its non-perpendicular walls, texture mapping and lighting effects raise the bar for 3D graphics.

1995
Nintendo unveils the Virtual Boy 3D console. Used a system of red and black 3D graphics viewed through huge goggles. Is discontinued in 1996.

1998
Metabyte unveils Wicked3D, the first stereoscopic gaming solution for PC, which works via shutter glasses and universal drivers.

2008
James Cameron hints that stereoscopic gaming could be coming to Xbox 360. Six months on, Blitz Games confirms this at the 3D Entertainment Summit.

2010
Sony launches the first stereoscopic 3D gaming content for PS3 in the form of downloadable patches for *WipEout HD* and *SuperStardust HD*.

3 GRASS-ROOTS

The grass-roots game scene of bedroom developers is back and bigger than ever

For a time it looked like it didn't have a chance. The spirit of the '80s, when it was all about hobbyist programmers beavering away in their bedrooms and garden sheds, seemed to be all but lost. As the gaming audience ballooned, so did the cost of making games. Multi-million dollar blockbusters lined the shelves, and the big companies became bigger and more successful than ever. How could an eccentric with a passion, a Commodore 64 and a mug of Bovril compete?

But bedroom programming has enjoyed a resurgence. The popularity of services such as Xbox Live Arcade and smartphone app stores have shown there is a huge appetite for titles with simple visuals and great gameplay – exactly the type of games indie developers specialise in and have the resources to make.

Thanks to smartphones, it's never been easier to get your games played. Gain app store approval and you can reach millions of potential users instantly. And gamers can play whenever they want. It's a win-win situation, and it makes the gaming world a more vibrant place to be.

STANDBY SELECT
OFF
HAND
PLANT
AUTO
C4 SCOUR AIR BLOWER 08C01a
AVAILABLE
RUNNING
STOPPED
MOTOR FAILED
MOTOR OVER TEMP
EMERGENCY STOP OPERATED
START
STOP
RESET
DUTY SELECT
h

Zip-up puffball dress, Lipsy, www.lipsy.co.uk

ANATOMY OF THE GAME-CHANGERS:

NOKIA N97
£240 | www.nokia.co.uk

APPLE IPHONE 4
from £500 | www.apple.com/uk

It's still got game
The ageing N97 remains a great portable gamer. The 3.5in touchscreen and QWERTY keyboard present a range of control system options, while the software library includes new Ovi titles and N-Gage classics such as *Reset Generation.*

NOKIA
N97
200
EXCELLENT!
25
4
Cascades

It creates new ways to play
Conspiracy For Good, an AR venture developed with *Heroes* creator Tim Kring, allows participants to point their Nokias at real-world objects to get information about special events. The story also unfolds via Ovi Maps and casual games in the Ovi Store.

It's as motion-sensitive as a Wii
By introducing the three-axis gyrometer to supplement the original's accelerometer, the 4 has opened up the possibilities for mobile motion-controlled gaming. The device can now detect pitch, roll and yaw – like Wii MotionPlus.

HIGHSCORE: 105880
SCORE: 28460

Its App Store is streets ahead
There are more than 33,000 games currently available in the App Store and another 50 submitted for approval every day, so there's something to suit every taste. If you develop a winner (like *Angry Birds* or *Flight Control*), fortune is assured.

GRASS-ROOTS TIMELINE

1982
Hobbyist developer Jeff Minter finds his games are so successful he quits his physics degree and sets up development studio Llamasoft.

1986
Richard and David Darling establish Codemasters, which goes on to publish home-programmed classics such as the Oliver twins' *Dizzy* games.

1992
Ex-schoolfriends Jon Hare and Chris Yates score a hit with *Sensible Soccer* for the Amiga. They go on to rack up seven number ones with iterations.

1997
Sony releases Net Yaroze, a development kit for PlayStation. It includes a debug console and software tools CD for hobbyist developers.

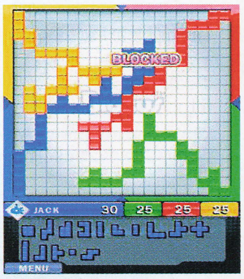
1999
YoYo Games unveils *Game Maker*, a Windows program designed to enable users with no experience to design their own games.

2001
Three university friends set up Introversion Software, hand-making and distributing copies of their games. Hits include *Darwinia* and *DEFCON*.

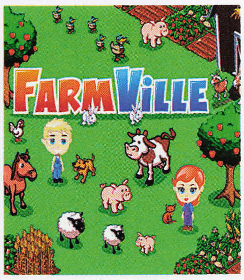
2006
Microsoft releases XNA Game Studio Express, software designed to encourage hobbyists to create games for Windows and Xbox 360.

2008
Apple launches the App Store for iPhone and iPod Touch. Indie developer Tapulous hits 1 million downloads for *Tap Tap Revenge* in three weeks.

LIFE-RULING SMARTPHONE GAMES



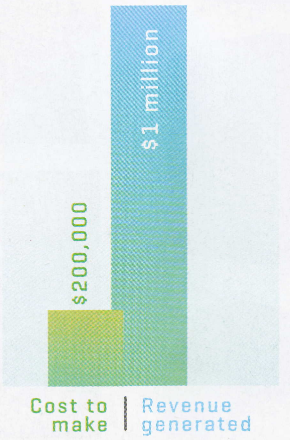
Blokus
£0.59 | iPhone
Based on the classic strategy boardgame of the same name, *Blokus* is fiendishly addictive. Extra points for the multiplayer mode, which allows up to four players to compete using one handset.



FarmVille
£free | iPhone
Like it or loathe it, this is already the most popular game on Facebook, with more than 82.4 million active users. Now the free iPhone version is out, can the rest of the world resist?

HOW MUCH CAN AN INDIE GAME NET YOU?

Braid on Xbox Live Arcade



WHAT'S NEXT?

All eyes are on the iPhone's rivals to see what's going to be worth developing for. One candidate is Nokia's N8, due next month. It'll have a dedicated graphics processor with OpenGL 2.0 for 3D visuals and a capacitive multi-touch screen, and it runs the new Symbian^3 OS. Plus it's affordable, at around £300. Could be a contender.

4

HARDCORE

When it's time for work and you haven't slept since Friday, you know you're hardcore

You could be forgiven for thinking you're an increasingly rare species. The arrival of the Wii, along with the popularity of social titles such as *Guitar Hero*, created shift-changes in the gaming landscape. Going back only a few years, who would have predicted that *Call of Duty* would be knocked off the number one spot by *Just Dance*?

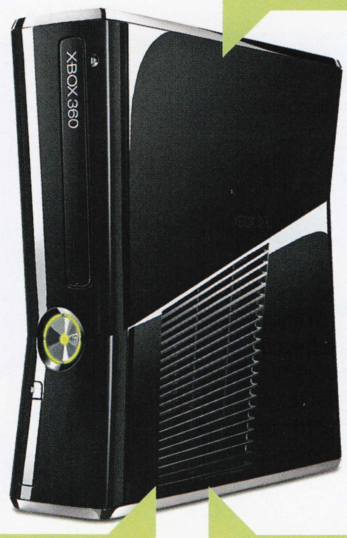
But take a closer look and it's clear that hardcore gamers are the life-blood of the industry. They're the ones spending all weekend online, locked into the latest shooter. They're the ones battling it out online till the early hours. They're the ones completing a game on the hardest difficulty level, then doing it all again, just because they can.

They're also the ones buying big budget blockbusters on the first day of release, making the games industry bigger than movies (in the year to September 2009, £1.73bn was spent on games and £1.2bn was spent on cinema and DVD). The reason publishers continue to invest more money in better-looking games is because there's demand - and that demand comes from the hardcore. You're a demanding bunch.

ANATOMY OF A GAME-CHANGER:

XBOX 360 SLIM

£200 | www.xbox.com



It's smaller and bigger than ever
The Slim is 600g lighter than the original model, and sleeker: 270mm across compared to 370mm. Yet Microsoft has given it a 250GB hard drive – more than twice the size of the Elite's, ripe for stuffing with Xbox Live titles and media.

It doesn't need the cable any more
The Xbox Live service is the killer selling point of the 360 for the hardcore, but up until now you've needed to plug in an Ethernet cable or shell out for a wireless adapter to access it. Now the Slim has 802.11n wireless built-in. About time too.

It likes to move it
The Slim has two extra USBs and a dedicated port for the Kinect motion camera. Kinect will work with old 360s, but you'll have to plug a power supply into the wall. Now MS needs to make Kinect as appealing to the hardcore as it will be to the casual.

THE ULTIMATE HARDCORE SETUP

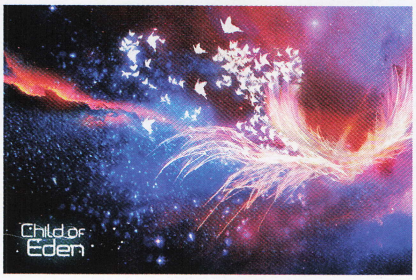
NEC CRV43
US$8000
www.necdisplay.com
For forget-to-eat immersion, you need a huge, curved display. The 43in CRV43 has a 2880x900 resolution, 32:10 aspect ratio and 10,000:1 contrast ratio.

Logitech G19
£150 | logitech.co.uk
A keyboard built for gaming, with 12 G-keys which can be configured with up to three macros each. The 320x240 GamePanel LCD displays game stats, server updates and other info.

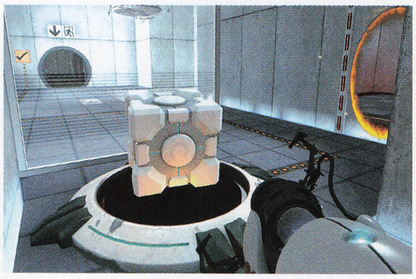
Alienware Area-51 ALX
£2890 | alienware.co.uk
The hardest of hardcore need this PC. It runs on a pre-overclocked Intel Core i7 975 Extreme processor, dual graphics cards and a liquid cooling system. Almost silent, utterly deadly.

Razer Mamba
£100 | razerzone.com
Razer claims the Mamba mouse delivers lag-free wireless gaming at the fastest speeds possible. The charging dock doubles as a receiver, but you can use USB if you don't trust the airwaves.

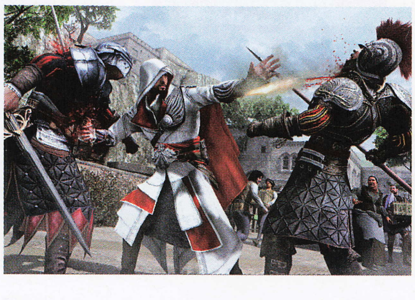
THIS IS HARDCORE



Child of Eden
PS3, 360 | due spring
This is the latest offering from Tetsuya Mizuguchi, creator of legendary shooter *Rez*, and the first to be playable with Kinect and Move. Expect psychedelic visuals and a rousing techno soundtrack.



Portal 2
PS3, 360, PC | due 2011
The original *Portal* was a hardcore gamer's dream, combining futuristic guns and gadgets with brilliantly innovative puzzles. The sequel will be similarly genre-shattering and time-killing.



Assassin's Creed Brotherhood
PS3, 360, PC
due November
Finally delivers the multiplayer *Assassin's Creed* experience fans have been waiting for. Stunning visuals and action-adventure gameplay are promised.

In association with msi

HARDCORE TIMELINE

1972
Nolan Bushnell and Ted Dabney found Atari, Inc. The company goes on to produce hardcore hits including *Battlezone*, *Asteroids* and *Klax*.

1978
Space Invaders appears in Japanese arcades. The game is so popular it causes a temporary shortage in the availability of 100-yen coins.

1981
Nintendo releases *Donkey Kong*, the first ever platformer. Designer Shigeru Miyamoto has another hit two years later with *Mario Bros*.

1987
The first game in the *Metal Gear* series launches for the MSX2 platform. A NES follow-up kicks off a trend for stealth-themed games.

1994
PlayStation arrives on the scene. The two-way rivalry between Sega and Nintendo is ended as Sony's console dominates the market.

1996
id Software pioneers online gaming with *Quake*, a first-person shooter. They're credited with inventing the FPS with *Wolfenstein 3D*.

2001
Xbox and GameCube launch. PS2, released a year earlier, remains on top as exclusives such as *Final Fantasy* and *Gran Turismo* prove popular.

2009
Activision releases *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2*. It racks up $550 million in five days, beating box office gross for the *Avatar* and *Harry Potter* movies.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Sony and Microsoft insist this console cycle will last longer than previous ones, suggesting it may continue for another five years. But while they're busy trying to sell motion-sensing controllers, Nintendo has a chance to steal a march with its hardcore-friendly Wii HD.

Blue dress with black arms, Diva, www.corsets.co.uk

5 ON-DEMAND

It's now more convenient to get hold of the latest game than it is to have a takeaway

The rise of the Internet and ever-faster broadband has brought the concept of on-demand gaming into being. Why go to the shops when you can download your software directly to your PC, Mac or games console? Why buy games at all when you can rent them?

Removing the physical media expands the frontiers of how we consume our games. On the PC, Valve's Steam platform has almost universal support from most software publishers, and is more than just an electronic salesman: it's a viable platform in its own right, helping to standardise multiplayer gaming and even offering Xbox 360-style Achievements and cross-title chat options. The three main console manufacturers all support on-demand gaming with a range of smaller titles plus a smattering of full-price games too.

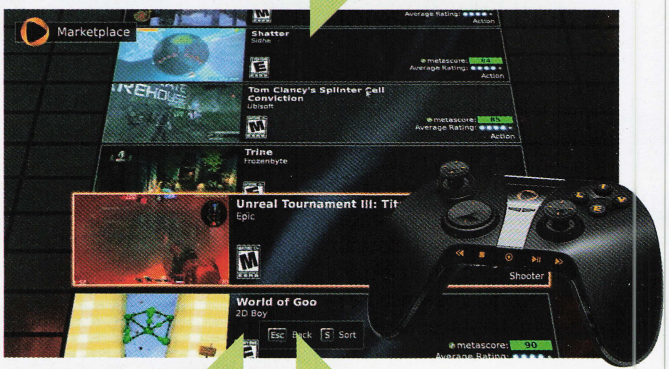
The ultimate iteration of gaming on demand is exemplified by OnLive – a system that streams interactive gameplay video to your PC or Mac, with no specific gaming hardware required. With OnLive you no longer need a noisy console under the telly. Gamers, this is the future...

ANATOMY OF A GAME-CHANGER:

ONLIVE

£tba (due Xmas 2011)

www.onlive.com



It's GoIP (Gaming over IP)
OnLive hosts games on its servers, transmitting audio and video to your screen across the net. You interact via keyboard/mouse or control pad and your inputs are transmitted back to the servers. The result? No need to buy a PC or console ever again.

It's bad news for pirates
Developers like "Cloud Gaming" as the end-user gets no actual product, making piracy impossible: OnLive retains all game code. As games become more demanding, OnLive upgrades its servers – the PC you're using to play need not change at all.

It shouldn't try your patience
OnLive provides instant action – no downloading – and barely any in-game loading. Most titles have playable demos and you can even rent certain releases. Downsides? Often-poor video quality, control lag and no real savings on game prices.

THE DOWNLOAD PLATFORMS

XBOX LIVE

Has few big games but a massive array of multiplayer and community features, demos, plus a superb library of download-only titles from the Xbox Live Arcade. Also supports indie games: build and sell your own.

PROS

- Not just a games retail platform, but the best console community experience available
- Also provides downloadable HD movies and TV shows

CONS

- You pay a £40 yearly subscription to gain access to the multiplayer options
- The full "games on demand" are usually cheaper bought online

KEY GAMES
Trials HD
Geometry Wars 2
Castle Crashers

PSN

Network is Sony's answer to Xbox Live, mirroring most of its community and game download functionality. Games available are an eclectic collection, with Sony-originated titles often offering phenomenal value.

PROS

- Very high quality range of titles, at keen prices
- Basic community services including multiplayer gameplay are completely free

CONS

- Crucial community functions, like the ability to talk to friends playing different games, are missing
- Very few full-price games are available

KEY GAMES
WipEout HD/Fury
Super Stardust HD
Joe Danger

WIIWARE

Users need to jockey their games onto SD cards and developers are limited to games 40MB in size. There are some great titles though, and Virtual Console is the best platform for retro games available.

PROS

- An impressive range of concept-driven, enjoyable titles
- Unquestionably the largest selection of pixel-perfect retro titles via Virtual Console

CONS

- No demos, no full price games, game download size extremely limited
- Dire community functions compared to Xbox Live and PSN

KEY GAMES
LostWinds
World of Goo
Cave Story

STEAM

The PC and Mac-friendly daddy of on-demand has evolved into a community, offering the major features of the console versions such as cross-game chat and in-game Achievements, plus special offers.

PROS

- Pretty much full publisher support, and games can be downloaded to any computer you sign into
- A community-based service the equal of

CONS

- Despite publishers saving manufacturing costs, savings aren't passed on to buyers
- You can't sell old games as you can with the retail products

KEY GAMES
The Orange Box
Mass Effect 2
Battlefield: BC 2

METABOLI

A games subscription service for PC. The flat-rate £12.95 per month for the premium offering gives you access to almost 500 games. Download as much, or as little, as you want and play to your heart's content.

PROS

- £12.95 per month for unlimited access to the entire Metaboli library
- Different packages/costs for different types of games

CONS

- You buy nothing, but you own nothing. No sub means no games
- Library of titles nowhere near as comprehensive as Steam's

KEY GAMES
DiRT 2
Champ Manager 2010
Batman: Ark. Asylum

WHAT'S NEXT?

"Cloud Gaming" – as seen with OnLive – will gain traction, and video quality will improve as internet speeds increase. In response, we can expect the console makers to embrace the idea of all their games becoming downloadable and rentable. In the future, alternatives to OnLive's "dumb terminal" approach to Cloud Gaming will also become prevalent, with tomorrow's titles streaming in new levels, graphics and other game data as you play.

In association with msi

NEXT LEVEL GAMING

If you're serious about gaming and need a laptop with the power of a desktop, MSI's GX660 is the answer

4
2
1
1
3
msi
DYNAUDIO

MSI GX660

from £1499 | uk.msi.com/gx660

SORRY, CONSOLE FANS, but for outright gaming power, you can't beat a PC packed with the latest, most powerful processor and graphics card. Few of us have space for a massive desktop PC and monitor, though, and laptops usually lack the power to run games at warp speed in hi-def. Not so with MSI's new gaming rig, the GX660 – it offers the best of both worlds: desktop power, laptop convenience.

The GX660 is MSI's flagship gaming notebook. It comes with an **Intel Core i7 Mobile processor**, discrete **ATI Radeon HD5870 graphics card**, and can be loaded with up to 12GB of memory for super-smooth gaming. Uniquely, it's **equipped with a bespoke premium sound system by Dynaudio**, the same experts who designed the in-car hi-fi used in the Bugatti Veyron.

To maximise the sound stage, the GX660 uses **twin, high-spec drivers (1)** positioned to the sides of the chassis, in front of the **16in hi-def display (2)**. Like the built-in subwoofer, they're mounted in custom housings as part of a fully integrated audio system. With **Dynaudio digital sound processing** created especially for the GX660, the result is sonic reproduction previously unheard of in a laptop.

For those extreme gaming moments when even quad-core multitasking isn't quite enough, the GX660 also offers on-the-fly processor overclocking, courtesy of MSi's exclusive **Turbo Drive Engine tech**. Combined with the ATI Radeon HD5870, one of the world's fastest graphics cards and packing a huge 1GB of dedicated GDDR5 memory, the result is the most immersive portable gaming experience available.

The GX660 is also a multimedia powerhouse: there's an integrated **Blu-ray drive and DVD re-writer (3)** and a **hi-def webcam (4)**, and all that power means everyday tasks such as music and video encoding are a breeze. Plus the **dual hard disks can be specced with more than 1TB of storage**, so there's plenty of space for your music and videos. Alternatively, if outright speed is your priority, you can opt for ultra-fast SSD or RAID drives.

The GX660 was developed with the help of Fnatic, the world-beating, MSI-sponsored pro gaming team, and delivers performance equal to many high-end desktop PCs. Yet it does so in a compact package less than 35mm thick and weighing just 3.5kg. It's like a neutron star of condensed gaming power.

msi
DYNAUDIO
P1
Turbo

3D FACE-OFF

With 3D, LCD TVs face stern competition from an old enemy: plasma. The theory goes that plasma's faster refresh rates mean superior motion handling and better performance with the real-world 120Hz+ demands of 3D. Are flatscreens about to go back to the future?

LCD

LG 47LX9900

£2500 | www.lg.com/uk

What's the story?

This is LG's flagship TV, its first to incorporate all of modern TV tech's must-have features. It's beautifully styled and improbably slim given its full-array LED backlighting, yet includes DLNA, Bluetooth and optional Wi-Fi access to LG's Netcast online service, plus 3D support and a Freeview HD tuner. It even gives you two remotes: a conventional one and a Wii-style wand system called Magic Motion.

TV to die for?

The black depth and overall contrast are excellent, as is the punch of the LG's whites. There's a slight halo around some light areas when they appear against dark backgrounds, but overall, it's impressive. However, with so many features, not everything hits the bullseye. Motion isn't quite as realistic as it could be (the optional TruMotion processing helps at times, but can make things worse), while 3D viewing, especially of older Blu-rays such as *Monsters vs Aliens*, can be spoiled by "crosstalk", a double-edging effect that, once you've seen it, can be quite distracting. Netcast needs more content and sound is thin, with the odd break-up at big volumes.

Stuff says ★★★★☆

Gorgeous styling, strong specs and capable performance but it's not perfect.

TECH

● LED-backlit LCD, 47in, Full HD ● Freeview HD, analogue tuners ● DLNA (x2), HDMI 1.4 (x4), USB (x2) ● Ethernet, Wi-Fi (optional) ● 71x108x25cm (with stand) ● 26.7kg

The specs

LG's AG-S100 specs look more conventional than Panny's, but might be tricky over the top of conventional glasses. Rechargeable via USB, you'll get two in the box.

Netcast

Samsung and Sony give you LoveFilm and iPlayer; Panasonic has Acetrax and Skype. LG's Netcast service? Picasa, YouTube and... weather. Skype is coming; about time too.

ADD THIS

LG BX580

£270 www.lg.com/uk

You don't have to use this 3D Blu-ray player with the LX9900, but let's face it, you're going to want to. It's small, neat and capable – and the whole system will work off one remote.

VieraCast
Now that Acetrax movie streaming and Skype are go, VieraCast is looking rosier. Shame there's no direct TV streaming. iPlayer and the rest would ice this cake nicely.

VIERA
Sunnyside
Panasonic

The specs
Panasonic's TY-EW3D10s look (and feel) unusual. They'll fit over glasses, but tend to slip down your nose. You get two sets. Like the LG's, extras are £100 per pair.

Stuff TEST WINNER

PLASMA

Panasonic TX-P50VT20B

£2300 | www.panasonic.co.uk

What's the story?
The first 3D plasma we've tried, Panasonic's latest is as fully loaded as TVs get. Online-enabled and media-friendly, it features DLNA support, multiple USB and SD-card inputs, plus the ability to record to an offboard hard drive. THX-certified, it includes both Freeview HD and Freesat tuners, and everything you need to view 3D is included.

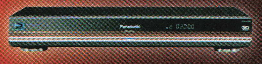
TV to die for?
Once you've fine-tuned it to your taste then yes, absolutely. Out of the box the Panasonic seems curiously dull, but dig into its lengthy picture-adjustment menus and you'll soon be rewarded with a fantastic image, full of life and contrast. Off-air HD reception is great, Freesat edging it for sharpness and stability, while performance with 2D Blu-ray is both richer and more consistently colourful than most LCD and LED rivals. And as for 3D, it's sublime, with sharp edges and little or no obvious motion blurring. Downsides? Acetrax movie streaming and Skype are all very well, but we'd still like BBC's iPlayer in there. Plus the EPG is cluttered and dated, and the set itself is plain dull. But hell, we'll cope.

Stuff says ★★★★★
The best 3D TV we've tested so far. There's life in plasma yet!

TECH
● Plasma, 50in, Full HD ● analogue, Freesat, Freeview HD tuners ● DLNA (x2), HDMI 1.4 (x4), USB (x2) ● Ethernet, Wi-Fi (optional) ● 81x125x33cm (with stand) ● 30.5kg

ADD THIS

Panasonic DMP-BDT300
£380
Panasonic's 3D Blu-ray player is pricey next to some rivals, but it's a great performer, and its twin HDMI outputs will find real favour with AV enthusiasts.

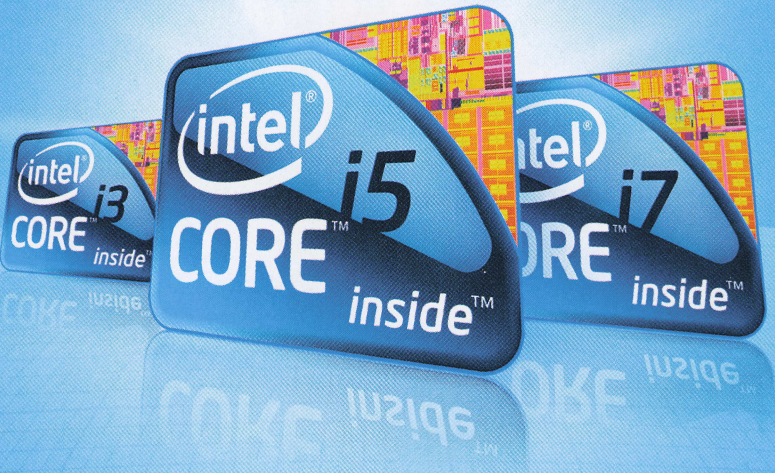


CONCLUSION
Plasma wins this test as the Panasonic VT20 offers the best 3D performance we've seen. But that's not to say LCD is out for the count. With high-end designs from Samsung and Sony still to rate, it's all to play for.

Computing so smart

even we have

goosebumps.



Meet the 2010 Intel® Core™ Processor Family with Turbo Boost Technology.[1]
So smart, it knows when you need a speed boost—and instantly provides it.
So revolutionary, computing will never be the same. **www.intel.co.uk/core**

intel
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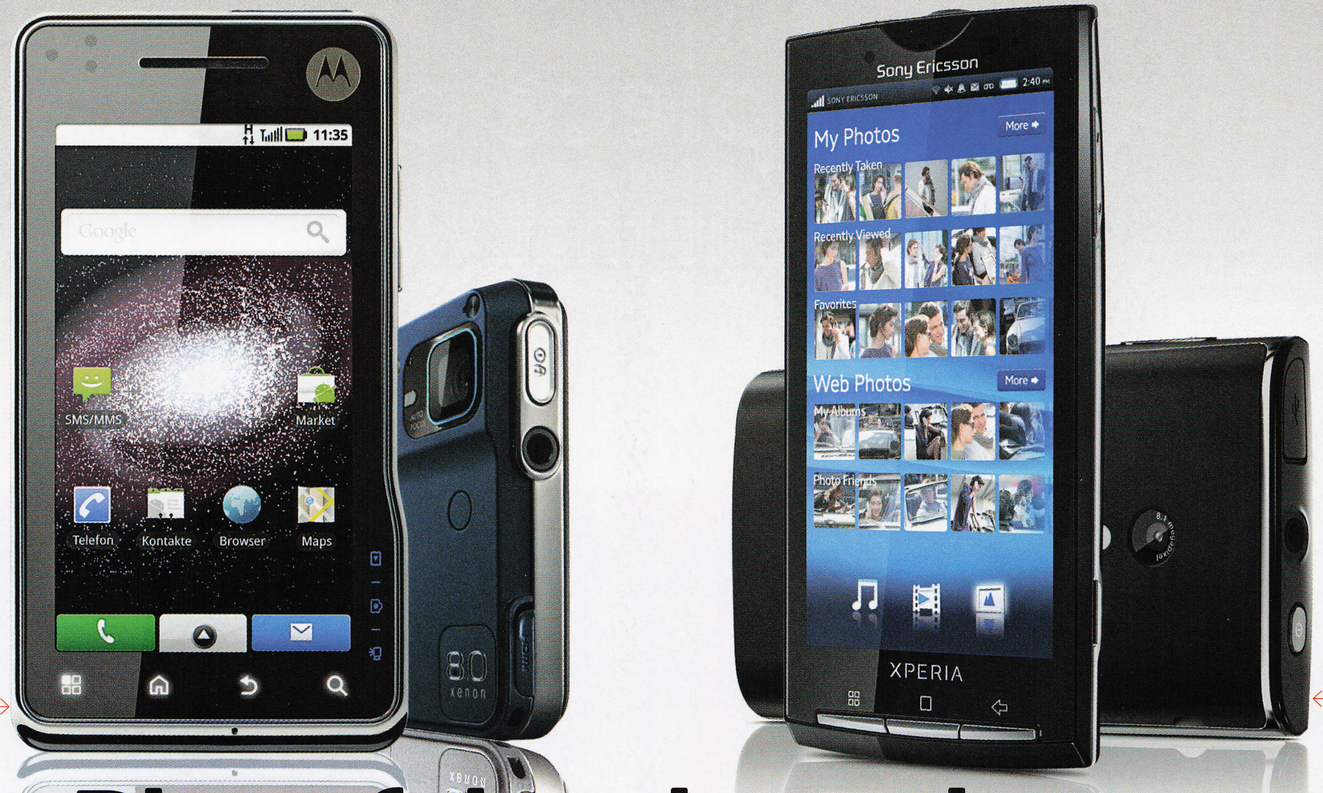
[1] Intel® Turbo Boost Technology requires a PC with a processor with Intel Turbo Boost Technology capability. Intel Turbo Boost Technology performance varies depending on hardware, software and overall system configuration. Check with your PC manufacturer on whether your system delivers Intel Turbo Boost Technology. For more information, see http://www.intel.com/technology/turboboost.



Rise of the photo-bots

Two fine Android smartphones, but which has the best 8MP snapper?

Motorola Milestone XT720

£450 | www.motorola.com

[VS]

Sony Ericsson Xperia X10

£550 | www.sonyericsson.com

[HARDWARE]

The Milestone is a similar size to the X10 despite its smaller 3.7in touchscreen. It's not the prettiest, with abrupt ridges and an unusual protruding tab that indicates which camera mode you're in. The glass front looks classy but smears easily.

With a 4in touchscreen the X10 is one of the larger smartphones around, but its sleek, curved profile and light weight make it pocket-friendly. It's more stylish than its rival, and faster, with a 1GHz Snapdragon processor under the bonnet.

[EXPERIENCE]

We're on Android 2.1 here, so that means five customisable homescreens and silky, multi-touch, pinch-to-zoom action. Web browsing is fast but the interface is the default Android front-end, and social networking requires third-party apps.

The X10's Android 1.6 OS feels outdated but an upgrade is imminent. The Timescape social networking interface can be jerky but is very smart, gathering updates and messages on one screen. Media files are similarly managed in Mediascape.

[CAMERA]

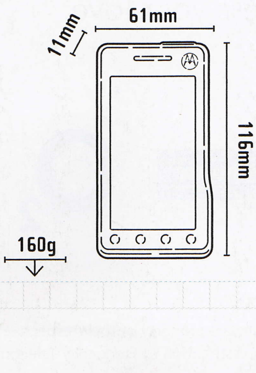
The xenon flash is effective and the ISO 800 mode is handy for atmospheric low-light pics, but photos lack the detail of the X10's. It triumphs on the video front though, sending hi-def 720p footage to your HDTV via a bundled HDMI cable.

With its feeble LED flash, the X10 struggles in low light, but when conditions are good it takes sharp snaps with natural colours and good contrast. There are plenty of tricks too, including touch focus and a 6MP, 16:9 widescreen mode.

STUFF SAYS

★★★★☆

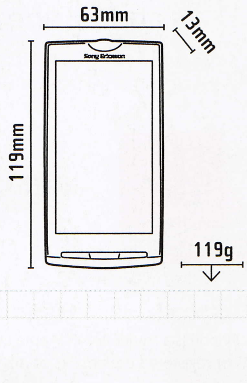
OS Android 2.1
Camera 8MP, autofocus, xenon flash
Video 720p@24fps
Display 3.7in, 480x854
Connectivity A-GPS, HDMI, HSDPA, quad-band GSM, stereo Bluetooth, Wi-Fi
Memory 512MB int. + microSDHC
Battery 4.5hrs talk, 320hrs standby



The Milestone shoots slicker video, but the X10 has a superior camera and makes for a better pocket companion

★★★★☆

Stuff TEST WINNER



OS Android 1.6
Camera 8MP, autofocus, LED flash
Video WVGA@30fps
Display 4in, 480x854 pixels
Connectivity A-GPS, HSDPA, quad-band GSM, stereo Bluetooth, Wi-Fi
Memory 1GB int. + microSDHC (8GB supplied)
Battery 8hrs talk, 425hrs standby

iPhone 4?
Great piece of kit.
Keep it that way.

cm case-mate®

If you're now the proud owner of an iPhone 4, you'll want to cherish, protect and enhance your new purchase. Case-mate has created an exciting portfolio of cases, in a range of great colours and finishes that will help you express your love.

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The Carphone Warehouse

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For a full list of retailers, visit
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STUFF'S GUIDE TO

Expeditions

Move over Shackleton, Livingstone and Cook– today's explorers are doing it harder, lonelier and with better gadgets than ever before

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SKYCAR EXPEDITION
Tombouctou

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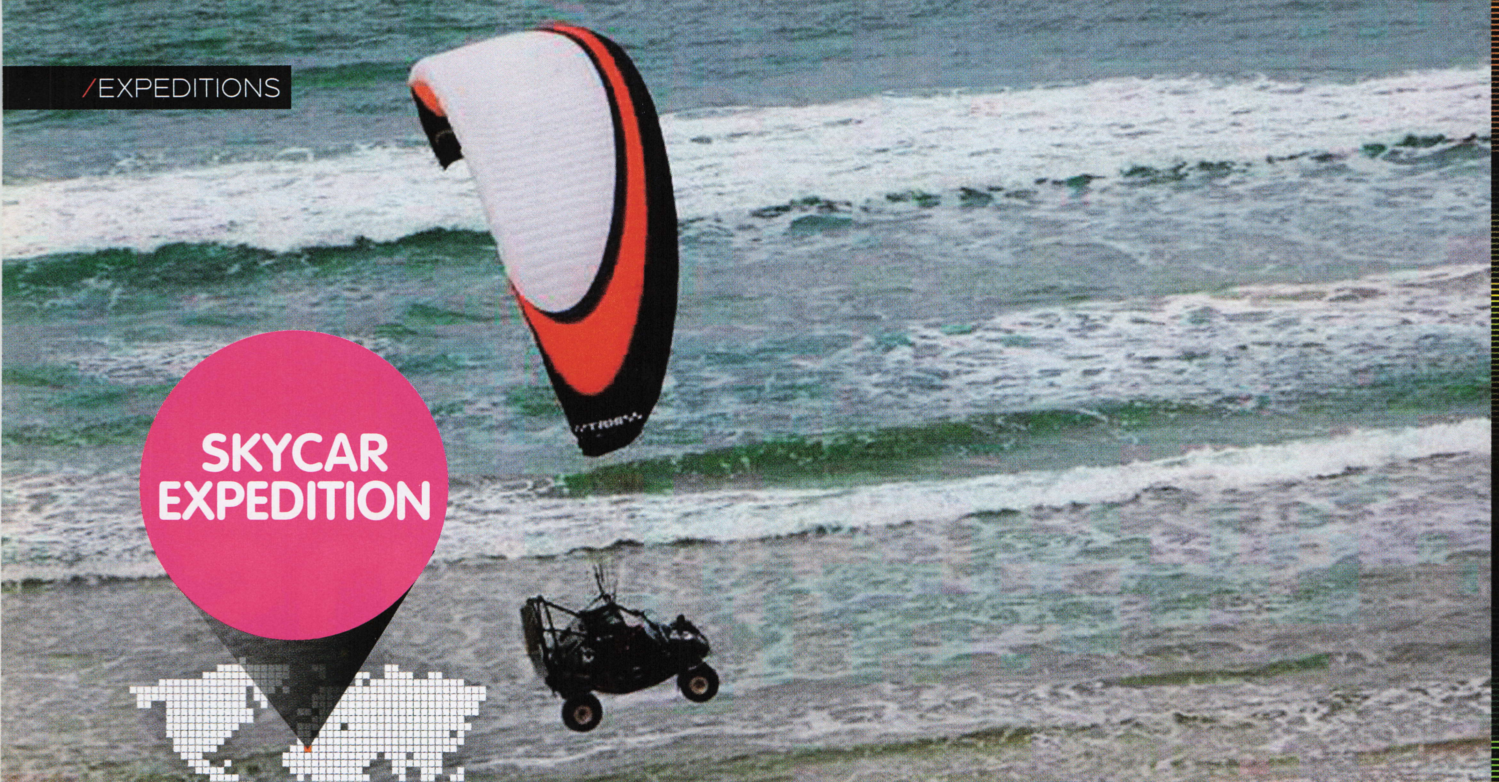
NORTH 3
North Pole

p72
HUNTING A MYTHICAL ELEPHANT
Nepal



www.parajetautomotive.com

SKYCAR EXPEDITION

www.skycarexpedition.com

WHAT? The world's first road-legal flying car journey from London to Tombouctou **WHO?** Duncan Milligan, logistics manager – former overland truck driver and tour leader **WHEN?** 13 Jan–25 Feb 2009

Gilo Cardozo was a man with a dream. Well, first of all he was a teenager with a dream, obsessed with developing a flying car. Cutting his teeth creating paramotors (huge sit-on fan engines that power paragliders), Gilo eventually turned his attention back to his earlier fascination, working on a concept to take a car into the air. In 2007 he helped Bear Grylls fly a paraglider over the top of Everest, so when it came to the testing stage for Gilo's Skycar, he wasn't just going to nip across the South Downs. No, this would involve driving and flying 6200 miles from London to the fabled city of Tombouctou in the Malian Sahara.

Flyer straits

It wasn't just a matter of taking off, heading south and stopping at Tombouctou. The expedition involved a huge amount of planning and gear. The Skycar was adapted from a Rage Motorsport Nytro sandbuggy, with added paramotor and a customised 42sqm Paramania aerofoil wing. Wherever it went it attracted attention; often admiring, sometimes less so. Milligan recalls: "Neil Laughton, the team leader, flew the Skycar over the Strait of Gibraltar to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, on the north African coast, but Morocco refused to let it in. We had to lop off the propeller, ship it back to Spain, stick it on a ferry to Tangier and import it as a sandbuggy."

FACTS

2600 litres
Fuel carried by the MAN75
4500 metres
Skycar's maximum altitude
£50,000
Cost of a Skycar

A man, a plan, a caravan

Aside from the Skycar, expedition infrastructure was extensive. The massive MAN75 8x8 support truck – all 28 tonnes, 600HP and 32 gears of it – was backed up by a Mercedes Unimog and a platoon of KTM 450 off-road bikes carrying Garmin Zumo 550 GPS units, designed to cope with engine vibration and exposure on motorbikes.

Unfortunately, not all the gadgetry performed so well. "For a venture like ours, with multiple vehicles, the success or failure of the expedition can be down to communications," Milligan says. "You don't need a huge range; 3km might be enough. We'd bought VHF aviation radios, but they were the wrong type. I can't count how many times one fell out of a truck while bumping over uneven ground, or stopped working after being bashed about on a bike. They weren't built to take that kind of abuse."

Despite obstructive border guards, unpredictable winds and a head-on collision with a tree in Mauritania, 42 days after setting off from London the Skycar arrived in Tombouctou – a triumph of technology and dedication.

In the end, however cutting-edge your kit is, Milligan emphasises how important it is not to rely on technology. "Batteries fail, gizmos break, your engineer falls sick. You can have the latest GPS giving you directions but, as we discovered in the Malian desert, the only way to be sure of the passable route through the dunes is to ask the herdsman at the side of the track."

The gear

Garmin Zumo 550
£350 | garmin.com
Dedicated, rugged motorbike sat-nav with Bluetooth for in-helmet instructions.

KTM 450 EXC
£5800 | ktm.com
The expedition's 450cc support bikes are built for E2-class off-road enduro racing.

Rage Nytro £poa
ragemotorsport.com
The sandbuggy that would be the first road-legal skycar has a 0-60 time of four seconds.

[Photos Tim Maw, Simon Temple]

Plan your expedition:

Seven steps to success

1 **What's the point?** These days most of the planet has been explored so you need to decide what it is you want to achieve: a scientific advance or a personal challenge? Measuring the polar ice cap or crossing Borneo on stilts?

2 **Be sure you're doing it first (or differently)** Scott wasn't happy when he discovered Amundsen had beaten him to the South Pole. Do make sure you're not doing something that's been done before.

WHAT? Unsupported solo record attempt for the fastest journey to the North Pole from Ward Hunt Island, Canada **WHO?** Ben Saunders, the youngest person to ski solo to the North Pole **WHEN?** March 2011

When Ben Saunders was forced to abort his most recent expedition, a solo North Pole tramp in March, it wasn't a faulty GPS that threw a spanner in the works, nor even, as happened during his previous attempt in 2008, a pair of broken ski-binding bolts. This time he was undone by something as simple as a leaky bottle.

"The pounding the sledge was taking managed to crack one of Ben's fuel canisters," reports Andy Ward, his expedition manager. "The leaking fuel melted through the food bags and contaminated 70% of his supplies. Losing that much food was totally catastrophic."

But you don't become a polar explorer without steely determination. Camped out on the ice awaiting pickup, just three days into his planned 30-day mission, Ben was already working out the optimum date for coming back and finishing the job. There's only a short time-window late in March during which weather conditions are clement enough but while sufficient sea ice is still intact, so Ben will be returning in March 2011 to have another crack.

Light speed champion

The challenge for next spring's endeavour remains the same as for his two previous attempts: to beat the world speed record for the trek to the Geographic North Pole. It currently stands at 36 days 22 hours, set in 2005 by a dogsled expedition, but that's too easy for Ben. His attempts are solo and unsupported: no food drops, no camera crews, no respite.

Clearly weight, or the lack of, is key. Every piece of equipment is light, from the custom-build carbon and Kevlar Acapulka pulk (sled) to bespoke merino thermal baselayers from Sunspel (they made Daniel Craig's underwear for the latest two Bond films... in case you were wondering). Even so, with the bare minimum of essential kit, there's a lot to haul. "The start weight of my sled for my 2004 expedition was 180kg," Ben says. "Compare that with the 91kg sleds pulled by Captain Scott's team."

Glacial geek

A lot of Ben's load is essential food, camping and sleeping gear, but in the modern era of exploration plenty of gadgets are available too. Ben uses a Bremont Supermarine watch and Garmin eTrex H GPS, but it's not navigation or even survival that requires the most technology.

"It's vital to keep an ongoing record of the expedition," he says. "I update my website and blog daily from my tent using an HP iPAQ hx2795 PDA via my Iridium satphone [Motorola 9505], with photos and footage shot on a Nikon Coolpix L20 and a Flip UltraHD videocam. I also carry a Yellowbrick tracking beacon so my progress can be monitored. Then there's the gun..."

Gun? "A close encounter with a polar bear is a risk, so I carry a shotgun – to scare, not to kill."

At least when Ben heads out on his subsequent polar mission in 2011, to trek to the South Pole in the footsteps of Scott, bears will be one less concern. Now he just needs to find a tougher bottle...

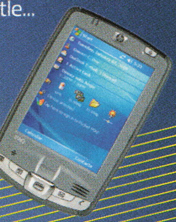
The gear

ACAPULKA
ACAPULKA

Acapulka Professional Expedition 210
€1900 | acapulka.com
This 4.3kg carbon/Kevlar sled has conquered both poles.

yellowbrick

Yellowbrick Adventure
£varies | yellowbrick-tracking.net
A 50-channel satellite tracker with up to a year's battery life.



HP iPaq hx2795
£n/a | www.hp.com
An ageing PDA that nevertheless does for daily blogging via an Iridium satphone.

FACTS
476 miles
of sea ice to cross
5946 kCal
Daily food intake
-20°C
Lowest temperature

When, how and how much

3 Work out a timeline, an action plan and a budget, then start getting the cash together. Climbing Everest: from £30,000. Developing the Skycar: around £250,000. Saunders' expedition: over £1 million.

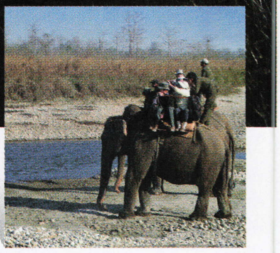
Assess the risks

4 What are you most afraid of? Polar bear attacks? Dying of thirst? Poison blowdarts? Knowing what might go wrong and how to deal with it is a crucial part of expedition planning, so do your research.

Get training

5 Hell, who needs a six-pack? You probably do. Saunders has run seven marathons and pushes ›

HUNTING A MYTHICAL ELEPHANT



WHAT? Scouring Nepal to find Rajah Gaj, the biggest elephant ever seen in Asia **WHO?** Colonel John Blashford-Snell, ex-Royal Engineer and veteran of over 100 expeditions **WHEN?** March 2010

The ever-ebullient Colonel is a hero from a bygone age. He's organised and led over 100 expeditions to the frontiers of the world. As a Royal Engineer in the army he led an expedition on the first ever descent of the Blue Nile from Lake Tana to the Sudan border in 1968. "People thought we were mad when we said we'd go down the rapids in rubber boats," he says, "But it worked." In fact, it led to white water rafting as we know it today.

Years later, Blashford-Snell navigated all 1678 miles of the Congo River and, during expeditions to Nepal in the '90s, documented the largest elephant ever seen in Asia. At 73, he's just returned from tracking this mythical beast, Raja Gaj, a huge domed-headed elephant reminiscent of a woolly mammoth that he first found deep in the Bardia jungle.

Base camp

In March this year Blashford-Snell and the Scientific Exploration Society set out once again to try to find a group of rare tusker elephants, of which Raja Gaj was the head bull. He'd once broken the chain of a domestic female with his trunk and eloped into the night with her, and recent sightings of a huge bull thought to be Raja Gaj had been reported. The Nepalese government gave special permission for Blashford-Snell to set up a temporary base camp in the national park for ten days. He updated the government via a Thuraya XT satphone from satcom service provider NSSL, which he used to keep in touch with the park's game wardens.

Nightwatch

On the very first night in the camp, the domestic elephants became excited by movement nearby. From a vantage point high up in a watch tower, Bushnell night vision binoculars made it possible to see legions of spotted deer, and the heart-stopping roar of a Bengal tiger was heard, but there was no huge bull. Meanwhile, the PIR motion detector set up beside Blashford-Snell's tent went off... but it was just a lively mongoose.

Tracking

When morning came, Blashford-Snell set off with expert Nepalese trackers on six domestic elephants to track the bull, eventually picking up his trail from dung and broken branches. Finally, there was his familiar domed head, far away across a tributary of the river Karnali. They tracked the beast through thick jungle, the Colonel broadcasting to the group on his Motorola walkie-talkie: "Be warned, we may lose radio contact. Approach the bull with caution."

The prize

The group closed in slowly, looking out for two distinctive scars on the elephant's haunch. The huge bull charged, then stopped. But he stood still long enough to be measured from afar with a Bushnell Laser Rangefinder. Sadly, he bull turned out not to be Raja Gaj, but another bull, also with the strange domed head.

Now known as Rajim Gajko Choudra, or Rajim for short, he's suspected to be Raja Gaj's son. He measures ten feet at the shoulder and is probably 25–30 years old. It seems the original beast of Bardia may no longer be alive, but it's thought that huge bulls may still live deep in a hidden valley, far away from poachers and prying eyes.

FACT

The domed heads of the Bardia tuskers, though not related to the woolly mammoth, are reminiscent of their ancient Asiatic ancestor *Elephas hysudricus*.

The gear

Bushnell StealthView
£360 | bushnell.com
Night vision monocular with a 5x42mm zoom and an effective range of up to 180m.

MOTOTLKR T7
£60 | motorola.co.uk
Walkie talkies with up to 10km range, a T7 can "call" any other T7, just like a phone.

Thuraya XT Sat phone
£800 | satcom-solutions.com
Compact, rugged, with GPS, email and phone reception worldwide.

200kg. And there's more: "Before my first expedition [2003] we practised bear drills in the car park of a Little Chef on the A303."

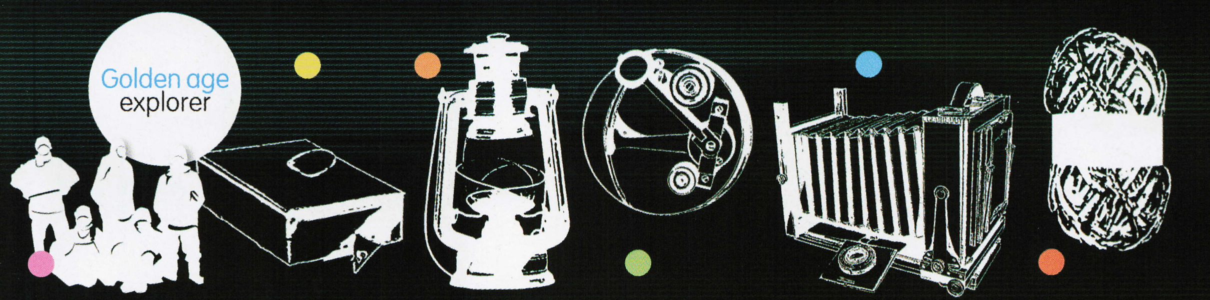
6 **Meet the natives – and be polite**
The most successful expeditions involve local people and ideally provide benefits to the local communities. At the very least, try not to nick off with all the sacred village icons when you leave.

7 **Shout about it**
When you're home – or ideally, during the expedition – compile a report, blog and upload photos and video footage to your website. As the oft-quoted axiom goes: "An expedition without a report is a holiday."

Thanks to Shane Winser for advice on planning: www.rgs.org/GO

Golden Age vs Silicon Age

A century ago, when the Duke of Abruzzi climbed K2, he took 6000kg of luggage. Today's explorers travel lighter and smarter. We spoke to Paul Goodyer, co-founder and CEO of Nomad Travel Stores, Shane Winser, head of the Expedition Advisory Centre at the Royal Geographical Society and Duncan Milligan, expedition advisor and former adventure leader, to find out how today's high-tech kit compares with yesteryear's…



Communication	Water	Lighting	Navigation	Recording	Clothing
● "Before effective communication systems you needed a big entourage, not just to carry all your clobber but to send for help when things went wrong. Today you can be more free-spirited." **PG**	● Joseph Banks, a naturalist on board Captain Cook's great voyage of 1768–71, had an iron stove and cooking set made for him. Unlike today's gas stoves, it couldn't boil a pan of water in under three minutes.	● A 1955 British expedition to climb Kangchenjunga carried six hurricane lamps, 7kg of tobacco, 284 boxes of matches and 25,000 fags, according to the book *A Teacup in a Storm* by Mick Conefrey.	● Charles Darwin's sextant was made by Newman of 122 Regent Street. It has a brass case, filters for eye protection and a magnifying glass on a moveable arm to read the scale. Old-school quality.	● Vittorio Sella was chief snapper on the Duke of Abruzzi's ill-fated mission to climb K2 in 1909. His equipment included a large camera requiring glass plates measuring 30×40cm. Compact it wasn't.	● For the 1953 Hunt and Hillary Everest attempt, Shetland wool jumpers were specially made by TM Adie of Voe, Scotland. The largest size weighed just 184g but was extremely warm for the weight.
● **Motorola XTNI VHF radio** **£165 | motorola.com** "Satphones can be useful, but they guzzle power and don't always get a signal. It's more useful to have good comms between team members and base camp." **PG**	● **Steripen Adventurer Opti** **£110 | steripen.com** "Safe water is vital. Boiling isn't feasible for large expeditions, so instead you'll need chemicals, mini-filters or the Steripen, which zaps bugs with UV light." **DM**	● **Petzl Tikka XP2** **£45 | petzl.com** "When you're scrambling around in total darkness, something as simple as a head torch can be absolutely priceless. Tough build and long battery life are important." **DM**	● **Suunto Core** **£275 | suunto.com** "Get yourself a watch with a compass, altimeter, barometer, thermometer, chronometer and alarm. Then you've got a single backup for lots of different instruments." **PG**	● **Brunton Solaris 6 watt solar charger** **£75 | brunton.com** "Seeing footage of expeditions as they happen is great but you need a power supply for a camera, netbook and so on. Roll-up solar chargers are fantastic." **SW**	● **Icebreaker Bodyfit 200 range** **from £50** **icebreaker.com** "We've come full circle. Synthetics were a revolution, but we're realising the benefits of merino wool again: warm, light and comfortable." **PG**

Silicon age explorer
SteriPEN adventurer opti
1020 hPa
TIME ALTI & BARO COMPASS
+25 °C
SUUNTO
MOTOROLA
PETZL
BRUNTON

The expedition gadgets you already own

SANITY SAVER
iPhone 4 from £500
apple.com/uk

"I'd never travelled with music before, but on a recent recce in the Malaysian rainforest I took my iPhone, and it saved my sanity. It got wet and knocked around, but it survived." **PG**

STURDY MOBILE
Nokia 3720 classic
£115 | nokia.co.uk

"You'll be amazed at the reception you can get in remote spots with a cheap local SIM card." **DM** The 3720 is water- and dust-resistant with up to 18 days' standby battery life.

NETBOOK
ASUS T91MT
£430 | asus.co.uk

"Seeing video clips from the field is an exciting development for expeditions." **SW** "It needs to be light, with a solid-state drive, good Wi-Fi reception and long battery life." **DM**

TOUGH CAMERA
Panasonic FT2
£265
panasonic.co.uk

"Take a small, tough model you can stick in your pocket and carry at all times. If it's too big you'll be reluctant to drag it out of the case. Video capability is also a bonus." **DM**

FIVE OF THE BEST

BUDGET BLU-RAY PLAYERS

You can now expect stunning hi-def video from an affordable Blu-ray player, with a side order of online content and even 3D skills

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

■ **Not just discs**
Many players can stream video from DLNA-compatible devices (such as PCs and network-attached storage). Further content is available via net-based widgets and on-demand services.

■ **Wi-Fi**
Not all players have Wi-Fi onboard, requiring an Ethernet cable connection or a USB dongle for wireless access.

■ **3D support**
2D players can't be upgraded to 3D, so if you think you'll want it, get a 3D player now.

■ **7.1-channel analogue**
These connections will allow older AV amps to access the HD audio soundtracks on Blu-ray discs.

Philips BDP7500

£250 | www.philips.co.uk

What's the spin?
It's a classy player for this price range, with a brushed aluminium chassis, mirror-finished fascia and touch-sensitive controls. You can forget about 3D and DLNA streaming though.

Star player?
Most style-oriented products compromise on performance, but not the 7500. Colours are vivid and punchy and it sounds meaty too. It also includes 7.1-channel analogue outputs, making it a worthy upgrade for older AV amps. Value is the only real issue – at this price we'd expect it to do more.

Stuff says ★★★★☆
An elegant, appealing player but lacking some modern features.

TECH ● AVCHD, Blu-ray, CD-R/-RW, DVD-R/-RW, DVD+R/+RW, DivX, MP3, WMV, Xvid ● 7.1 analogue, coaxial, component, composite, HDMI, optical, stereo analogue ● 1GB ● 56x435x245mm ● 2.8kg

LG BD570

£190 | www.lg.com/uk

What's the spin?
Blu-ray playback aside, the BD570's chief appeal is its web-friendly spec. It has LG's Netcast service, giving it YouTube and Picasa access, plus the ability to stream from DLNA-compatible devices via its built-in Wi-Fi.

Star player?
The LG is easy to use and looks neat until you fold down the front flap to plug in a USB stick. Blu-rays load rapidly and performance is up to scratch but DVD upscaling isn't the best. A bigger gripe is that, compared to Sony's online offering, Netcast is light on worthwhile content, but we're hoping that'll change.

Stuff says ★★★★☆
Makes sense for LG TV owners, but the competition is strong.

TECH ● Blu-ray, CD-R/-RW, DivX, DVD-R/-RW, DVD+R/+RW, MP3 ● coaxial, component, composite, HDMI, optical, stereo analogue ● Wi-Fi ● 43x429x203mm ● 2kg

b/g/n WiFi CERTIFIED
Blu-ray Disc
LG
Blu-ray Disc
PHILIPS
BLU-RAY DISC PLAYER BDP7500
PHILIPS

Stuff TEST WINNER
Panasonic
STOP
Blu-ray Disc
SETUP
SAMSUNG
HOME
WLAN
SONY

Sony BDP-S570

£230 | www.sony.co.uk

What's the spin?
Sony's BDP-S570 takes the outstanding BDP-S370, with its LoveFilm streaming, iPlayer support and DLNA, and makes it better. So now you get built-in Wi-Fi, 1GB of memory and 3D playback, all for an extra £60 over the 370. Bargain, surely?

Star player?
Oh yes. Edge definition, motion stability, colour vitality and DVD upscaling are all outstanding. Sound is equally impressive and its online services are a cut above the rest. And then to top all that, it's brilliant with 3D.

Stuff Says ★★★★★
So far ahead of the competition it's a no-brainer. Just buy it.

TECH ● AVCHD, Blu-ray, CD-R/-RW, DivX, DVD-R/-RW, DVD+R/+RW, MP3, SACD, WAV, WMA, WMV ● coaxial, component, composite, HDMI, optical, stereo analogue ● 1GB ● Wi-Fi ● 3D ● 36x430x206mm ● 2kg

Samsung BDP-C6500

£200 | www.samsung.co.uk

What's the spin?
Slim, sleek and comprehensively specified, the Samsung offers YouTube and LoveFilm streaming from built-in Wi-Fi. It's sorted for DLNA and USB playback too.

Star player?
It ticks all the boxes on paper but is let down by mediocre picture and sound performance. Even cleanly mastered discs suffer from traces of motion judder and less outright clarity than the best here, while sound is blighted by a bright, harsh tonality. It's a shame, and not even the Samsung's flexible specification can compensate.

Stuff says ★★★☆☆
Looks the part and has plenty to play with, but not a great buy.

TECH ● AVCHD, Blu-ray, CD-R/-RW, DivX, DVD-R/-RW, DVD+R/+RW, MKV, MP3, WMA, WMV9 ● 7.1 analogue, component, composite, HDMI, optical ● 1GB ● Wi-Fi ● 43x429x223mm ● 1.7kg

Panasonic DMP-BD85

£280 | www.panasonic.co.uk

What's the spin?
This is Panasonic's flagship 2D Blu-ray deck. There's DLNA and Wi-Fi streaming via a fat USB dongle that comes in the box, along with an extension cable to allow you to position it as you like for discretion and reception.

Star player?
It's much pricier than some players here, but the Panasonic works hard to justify it. Picture performance is excellent, with outstanding clarity and detail, while sound has more drive and power than cheaper Panasonics. The Viera Cast online service could be more extensive though.

Stuff says ★★★★☆
It doesn't do 3D, but otherwise is well worth its asking price.

TECH ● AVCHD, Blu-ray, CD-R/-RW, DivX, DVD-R/-RW, DVD+R/+RW, DVD-RAM, MP3 ● 7.1 analogue coaxial, component, composite, HDMI, optical, stereo analogue, ● Wi-Fi ● 55x430x249mm ● 2.6kg

NEW! LIFESTYLE® home entertainment systems. Including BOSE® Unify™ intelligent integration system.

Our best surround sound meets breakthrough simplicity.

Blu-ray™ player
CD/DVD player
HDTV
Unify™
iPod
Cable TV
Gaming Console
BOSE

Bose surround sound brings home entertainment to life. Music becomes more vivid, movies more intense, sports more exhilarating, video games more involving. Now, with the new LIFESTYLE® V35 system, premium quality home cinema sound is easier to enjoy than ever before.

Breakthrough simplicity in set up and use. Bose only Unify™ technology automatically integrates up to six HD audio video sources - like your Blu-ray Disc™ player, games console, cable TV as well as your iPod – combining them all into a single, easy to use home entertainment system.

You'll control everything from simple on-screen navigation menus – and a single, intuitive remote control.
It's so easy you'll master it in minutes.

Unique from Bose. And if that simplicity is pleasing, its lifelike sound will thrill you the most. BOSE® ADAPTiQ® technology precisely analyses the exact acoustic conditions of your room: its size, shape and even furnishings, and customises your system for optimal performance. And with BOSE® link connectivity you can enjoy all your audio throughout your home.

Hear the difference Bose technology makes. Bose is known for making home entertainment thrilling. Now see how much easier it can be to enjoy.

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Mon-Fri 9.00am - 6.30pm Sat & Sun 10.00am - 5.00pm
For a free information pack ✉ **Text 'Bose16019' to 64118**

For music. For movies. For games. From Bose.

BOSE®
Better sound through research®

iPod is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

TESTED

Sony Vaio P (Intel Z540)

£800 | www.sony.co.uk

Sony's hyper-compact netbook returns with a thumbable trackpad, in a range of zesty colours. Can it do enough to justify that premium price?

Take a netbook, chop off the trackpad and shear the screen to match. You now have the clutchbag form factor of the 2cm-thick Vaio P-series. **The keyboard is pretty much full-size in netbook terms, but the 8in display is an unusual 1600x768 resolution**, posing problems for the Windows 7 OS and certain apps.

The screen is flanked by a touch-sensitive pointer panel which can be tapped for a mouse click (along with an unintentional wiggle of the pointer) and a pair of right/left mouse buttons opposite. There's also an old-school nubbin in the middle of the keyboard that feels like a tiny fruit pastille, with mouse buttons below.

An Atom CPU drives things along, supported by 2GB of RAM, with a robust but restrictive 64GB solid-state drive. That's just about acceptable for day-to-day tasks, but **you don't have to push it far before it struggles**. Typically we got a rather disappointing three to five hours from the battery.

This is a machine that's made to move, so there's little in terms of hardware connections (two USB ports, card readers, VGA-out and a headphone socket) but **it's stacked with wireless and location tech**. There's a 3G modem, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS and a compass, plus a webcam, mic and even accelerometers.

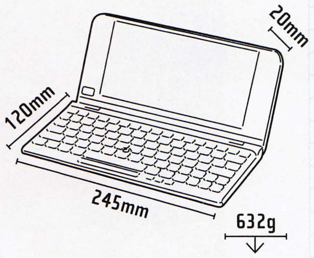
[Vs] NOKIA BOOKLET 3G

£590 | www.nokia.co.uk

If you're prepared to pay a premium for a classier netbook experience, the 10in, Atom-powered Booklet 3G will appeal. More practical than the Vaio P and with twice the battery life and storage, it's stylish but won't turn many heads.

★★★★☆

TECH SPECS: SONY VAIO P



Screen 8in, 1600x768
Processor Intel Z540 1.86GHz
OS Windows 7
RAM 2GB
Storage 64GB SSD
Connectivity 3.5mm headphone, Bluetooth 2.1+EDR, compass, GPS, HSDPA, Memory Stick Pro HD Duo, SDHC, VGA-out (proprietary), Wi-Fi (802.11 b/g/n)
Media External mic, stereo speakers, VGA webcam

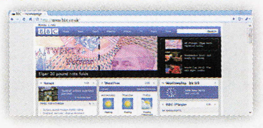
STUFF SAYS ★★★☆☆

Still the most elegant Atom netbook around, and still horrendously overpriced, too

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE REAL WORLD...

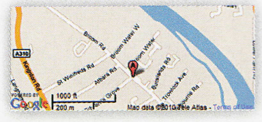
Browsing

A dedicated key boots straight to a "Splashtop" browser in 30 seconds. Browsing is compromised a little by the shallow display, and YouTube vids are jerky. Generally it's best to boot up Windows and use Firefox or Chrome.



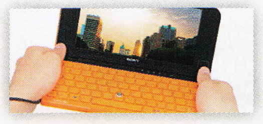
GPS

As it comes, the Vaio P won't do turn-by-turn navigation but does link up with Google Maps over 3G to offer maps, location and directions. The screen is too shiny for on-foot use but it could be a handy in-car backup.



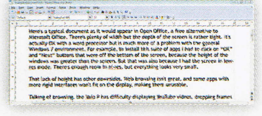
In the hand

Initially it feels weird. The trick is to hold it in two hands, controlling it with your thumbs. Typing on your lap demands a dainty pose but it's fine on a desktop. In our multi-user test, some grew to like it, others didn't.



Computing

There's enough power for office apps, but many demand more vertical pixels than the Vaio has. Word processors work OK, but others will shunt vital parts of their interfaces off the bottom of the screen, out of reach.



[Words Tony Horgan]

8 INSTANT UPGRADES

SURFING

Before you hit the waves, hit the gadgets. You'll enjoy it much more

Infra-red body warmer

Quiksilver Cypher PS+ Heat Vest

£100 | www.sortedsurfshop.co.uk

If you're not packing much body fat or want to surf in the depths of winter, you'll need a little help keeping warm. The rechargeable Cypher heat vest fits under a wetsuit and uses infra-red tech to keep your core toasty during long sessions. A car charger is included for re-juicing *en route*.

Eco-wetsuit

Gul Recore

£200 | www.gul.com

You can't complain about gloopy beaches if you're not prepared to do your bit. This British-made wetsuit is supported by Surfers Against Sewage. Its bamboo, solvent-free lamination and recycled fibres keep your eco-conscience squeaky clean. Plus it's full of ingenious design features for a super-snug fit.

Sharp shades

Oakley Holbrook

£105 | uk.oakley.com

Looking sharp on the beach is essential, and these Buddy Holly-esque shades are a worthy addition to your cool armoury. The Iridium lenses provide top-notch protection from the sun (UVA, B, C and blue light to 400nm) and reduction of glare. Upgrade to polarised lenses for £35 extra.

Minimalist boardies

Rip Curl Mirage 3

£90 | www.ripcurl.com

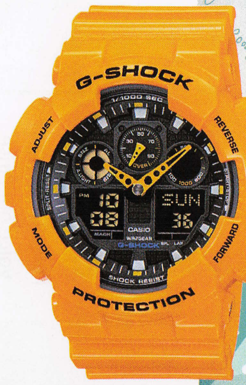
Wet shorts are usually a quick road to rash city, but Rip Curl claims its Mirage 3 shorts feel like wearing nothing at all – saucy! Welded seams and quick-drying fabric make sure you won't be rubbed up the wrong way.

Gnarly sports watch

Casio G-Shock X-Large combi

£100 | www.oki-ni.com

Time and tide wait for no man, and if you don't know what time it is you won't know what the tide is doing either. Whack-proof and waterproof to 200m, this G-Shock's multiple alarms will get you out of bed to catch the first wave of the day. Davy Jones' wristclock of choice.



Inflatable roof rack

Handirack

£50 | www.simplyhike.co.uk

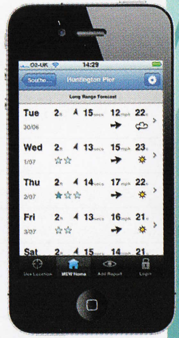
If you don't want a roofrack permanently attached to your car and don't have room to keep one in the shed, check out the Handirack. It inflates in seconds with its included pump and takes loads of up to 80kg. Then it packs down into a tiny bag that you can sling into the boot.

Surf predictor

MSW Surf Forecast (iPhone/iPod Touch)

£free | itunes.apple.com/uk

Mankind cannot divine the future, so instead he must call upon the services of spiritual algae. The Magic Seaweed app gives access to surf forecasts across the globe so you can have one eye on the waves all week, ready to sack off work early and rush to the coast on a Friday night if it's looking good.



Hardcore hi-def vidcam

GoPro HD Surf Hero

£265 | www.actioncameras.co.uk

Footage of your early wave-riding efforts may be more *You've Been Framed* than ESPN, but when you do catch a big one the Surf Hero will be brimming with HD footage to show off to your land-lubbing friends. Its special mount system means it'll stay put even in the gnarliest of wipeouts.

HOW TO

CATCH A WAVE

GET LESSONS

The best way to kick off your life on the ocean wave is with instruction from a British Surfing Association qualified coach (www.britsurf.co.uk).

GET IN POSITION

To begin with, stay in the white water (where the waves have already broken). Study the pattern of the waves before deciding how far out to paddle. Make sure you're not in the path of another surfer or swimmer and get into position facing the beach.

START PADDLING

When a wave is about five metres away, check there are no other surfers on it and start paddling. As the wave reaches you it will lift the board and, if you're paddling fast enough, propel you forward.

POP UP

Take hold of the rails of the board and jump to your feet. Your front foot should be about half-way up the board with your rear foot about 60cm behind it. Your back foot should be roughly at a right angle to the line of the board, your front foot at 45 degrees. Make sure the nose of the board is above the water – too high and you'll fall back into the wave, too low and the board will nose-dive.

RIDE THE WAVE

Once you've mastered standing up in one movement, the next step is to keep ahead of the breaking part of the wave by turning away from the white water. Put more of your weight on your back foot while leaning in the direction you wish to go, making sure that the nose of the board remains above water level. Turning the surfboard is a key skill as it's an essential requirement for avoiding collisions with other surfers and swimmers.

PERFECT YOUR TECHNIQUE

After the basic techniques of paddling, catching, riding and leaving a wave have been mastered, improvements and refinements can be made. Help and advice from more experienced surfers or from a BSA Accredited Surf Coach will be very useful, and joining a surf club is an advantage. Get stuck into books and surfing magazines, too.

[**Words** Julian Whitehorn, Joanne Hillman, British Surfing Association, www.britsurf.co.uk **Illustration** Jamie Sneddon]

reddot design award
winner 2010

GARMIN nüvi
2.2 mi
A591
Howtown
Hartsop
Glenridding
A591
A66
Castlerigg
Arrival
10:34 AM
Speed
60 mh
M 271 (S) Southampton The Docks
M 271 (S) & (N) Southampton Romsey
Arrival
9:44 AM
Speed
65 mh
70

Garmin, your guiding angel

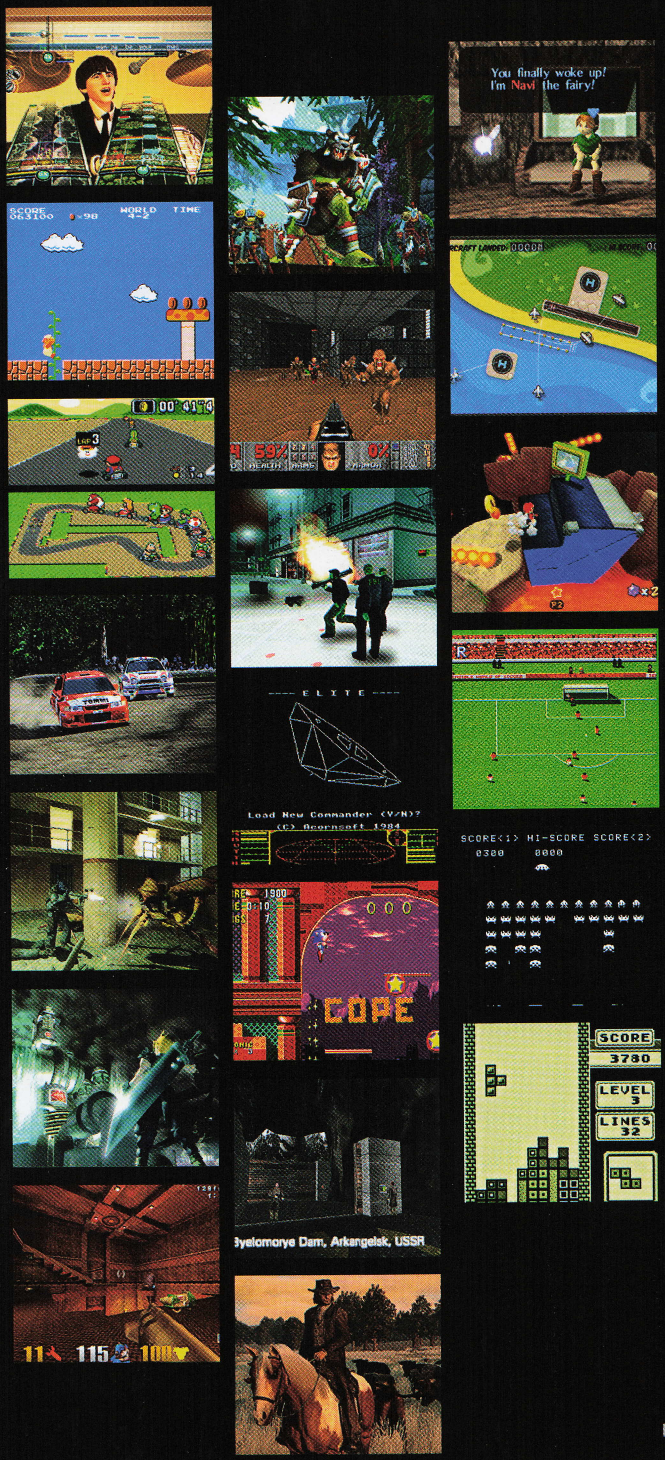
Personalise your
voice guidance
free with
Voice Studio™

Bring your sat nav to life with a heavenly name

We're all individuals, but now there's a sat nav that is on your wavelength. nüvi® 3790 obeys your commands, responds to your voice and is ready to go when you say his name. Give him a unique personality with Garmin's free Voice Studio™ or custom vehicle and you've got your ideal co-driver.

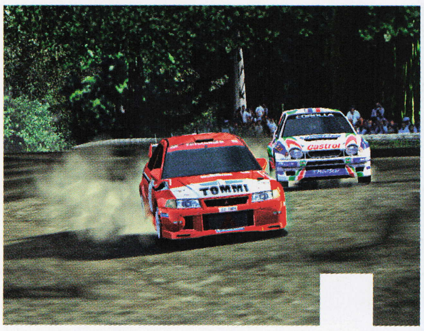
Make your Garmin your own at garmin.co.uk/3700

GARMIN®


You finally woke up!
I'm Navi the fairy!
SCORE 063100 WORLD 4-2 TIME
ELITE
Load New Commander (Y/N)?
(C) Acornsoft 1984
SCORE<1> HI-SCORE SCORE<2>
0300 0000
SCORE 3780
LEVEL 3
LINES 32
Byelomorye Dam, Arkangelsk, USSR

THE BEST GAMES EVER

It's time to pop the cork on *Stuff*'s annual rundown of the Best Games Ever. What's in? What's out? And what the hell is an Elektronika 60? Find out as we shower the following pages with the top 20 entries. For the full 100-game list, see stuff.tv/100bestgames



20 Gran Turismo 3 A-Spec PS2, 2001

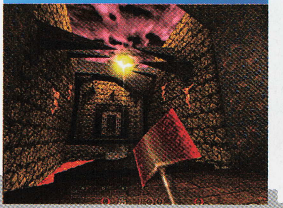
#20 last year

It took a bloody long time to arrive on PS2, but when it did, loyal fans of the series lapped it up and it won an army of new ones too. Combining *GT*'s trademark driving lessons with stunning new rally sections, it looked and played better than any race game ever. And if we're honest, it comprehensively kicks the backsides of most that have come since.

19 Quake PC, 1996

#15 last year

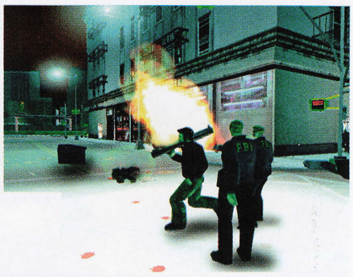
The creator of *Doom*, id Software, built on the foundations of its horror classic with full "look-aroundable" 3D to create what remains one of the finest multi-player games ever. Playing *Quake* on a network, against people you like or hate, is genius fun. Especially if you know where the rocket launchers respawn.

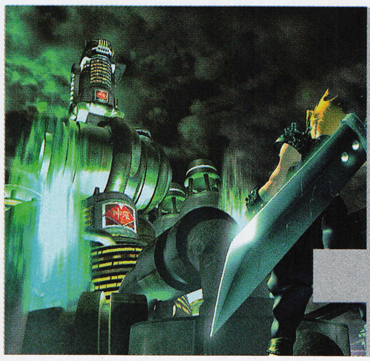


18 Grand Theft Auto III PS2, 2001

#5 last year

Rockstar Games pulled off the impossible by bridging the gap between games and movies – all the more impressive thanks to a mute lead character who shuffled through the murderous crime game without emotion. Truly, gaming's coming-of-age moment.

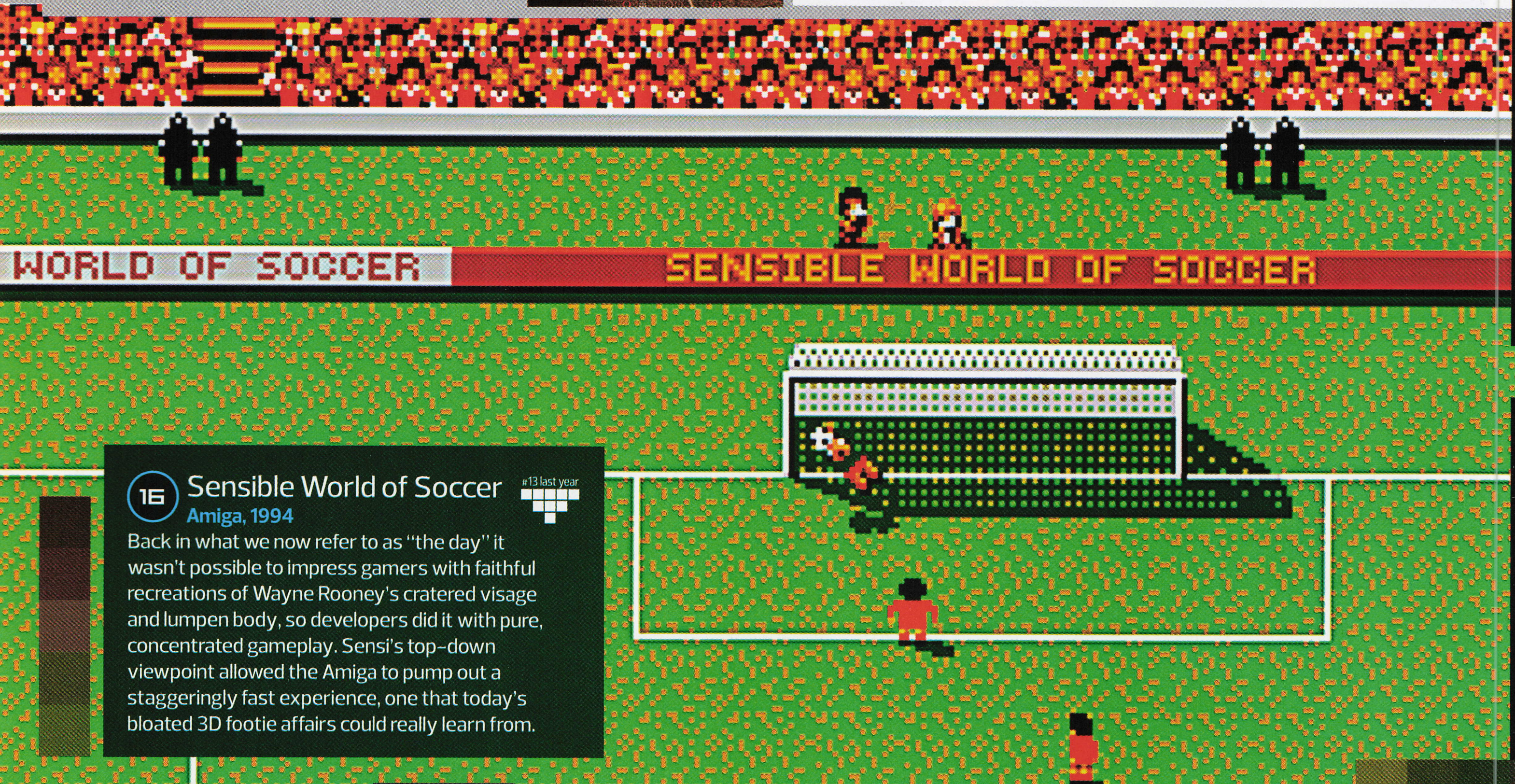




17 Final Fantasy VII PS1, 1997

#14 last year

Introducing the mainstream gamer to role-playing, *FFVII* used the PlayStation's CD-ROM drive to stream stacks of atmospheric computer generated graphics into our homes. An epic storyline peppered with heartbreaking twists and mini-games, it remains the favourite RPG of a generation.



16 Sensible World of Soccer Amiga, 1994

#13 last year

Back in what we now refer to as "the day" it wasn't possible to impress gamers with faithful recreations of Wayne Rooney's cratered visage and lumpen body, so developers did it with pure, concentrated gameplay. Sensi's top-down viewpoint allowed the Amiga to pump out a staggeringly fast experience, one that today's bloated 3D footie affairs could really learn from.

Key

#14 last year **Up** Storming up the list since last year

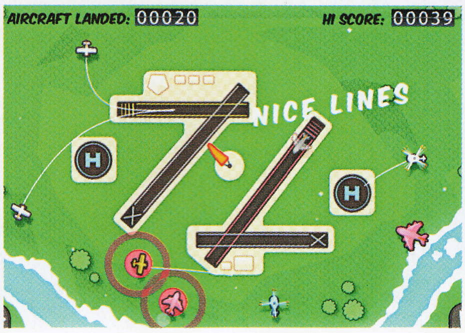
#14 last year **Down** This one's slipping in popularity. Boo!

#20 last year **Hold** Like a dead zombie, this ain't budging

New Entry **New** A spanking new entry to the chart

Why no modern footie games?

Apart from a brief flash of genius between *Pro Evolution Soccer* incarnations 3 and 5 on PlayStation 2, there just hasn't been anything to match the pace and skill requirements of the old 2D soccer titles. They've stepped backwards, Brian!



15 Flight Control iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, 2009 £0.59

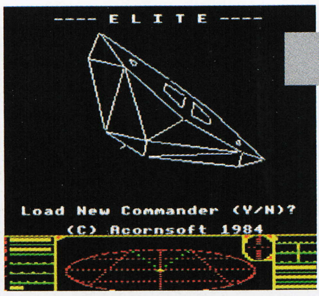
New Entry

It's the new, impossible-to-stop mobile gaming phenomenon. All you do – literally, *all you ever do* – is draw lines on a screen to direct planes to a safe landing at an airport. But they fly at different speeds and you get more and more to cope with, and you start to go mad and all you can think about when you go to bed is flight paths. A simple, genius idea, and an archetype of the grass-roots gaming scene that smartphones have reignited.

14 Elite

#12 last year

BBC Micro, 1984


---- E L I T E ----

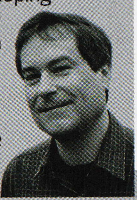
Load New Commander (Y/N)?

(C) Acornsoft 1984

It's incredible to think that in an age when simple *Asteroids* clones were considered cutting-edge home entertainment, programmers David Braben and Ian Bell managed to squeeze an entire galaxy full of planets, spacecraft and characters into approximately half as much memory as your microwave's clock uses today. *Elite* set the benchmark for the entire 8-bit generation, offering a depth that had simply never existed before.

Elite lives on?

As recently as 2009, Braben claimed to be creating a multi-format console version of *Elite IV*, under the banner of Frontier Developments. However, he first made mention of his plans in '98, and we've not seen hide nor hair of it yet. Still, developing Xbox 360 games on your own in your bedroom does take a while...

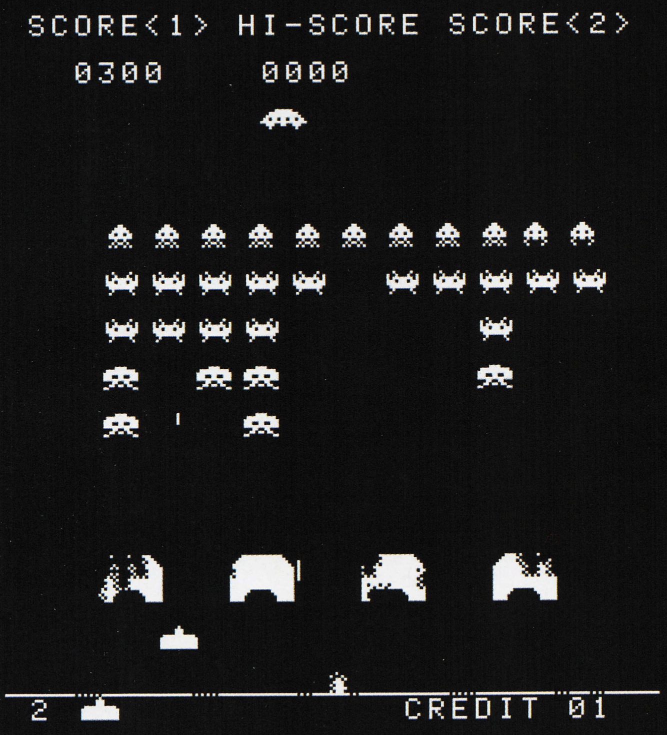


13 World of Warcraft

#11 last year

PC, 2004

While sections of the media were smugly telling us bland sims like *Second Life* were the future, Blizzard's astonishing Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game proved that gamers still liked to play games. *WoW*'s expansion packs sell more than most other games, and the scale of the world, variety of gameplay and ability to just kick back and go fishing make it perilously addictive.


SCORE<1> HI-SCORE SCORE<2>

0300 0000

2 CREDIT 01

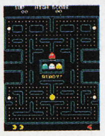
12 Space Invaders

#16 last year

Arcade, 1978

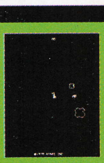
It didn't have much of a plot and it wasn't particularly realistic, but then in 1978 all you needed was a rock-hard challenge and a very well-made joystick. The proof of its success is in its legacy: *Space Invaders* lives on today in the form of remakes, updates, rip-off clones, online emulators, T-shirts and more. And it's still what your grandma thinks all computer games are like.

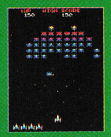
Grandma's other favourites



Pac-Man, 1980
The legendary pill-popping game is another classic that's been remade, reinvented and resold every three months to this day.

Asteroids, 1979
Rotating *Space Invaders* with a new perspective. It used pixel-free vector graphics on a massive screen for a clinical, sci-fi look.





Galaxian, 1979
Space Invaders but with mardier enemies that could "go rogue" and crash into you. They didn't even change the perspective.

11 Beatles Rock Band

New Entry

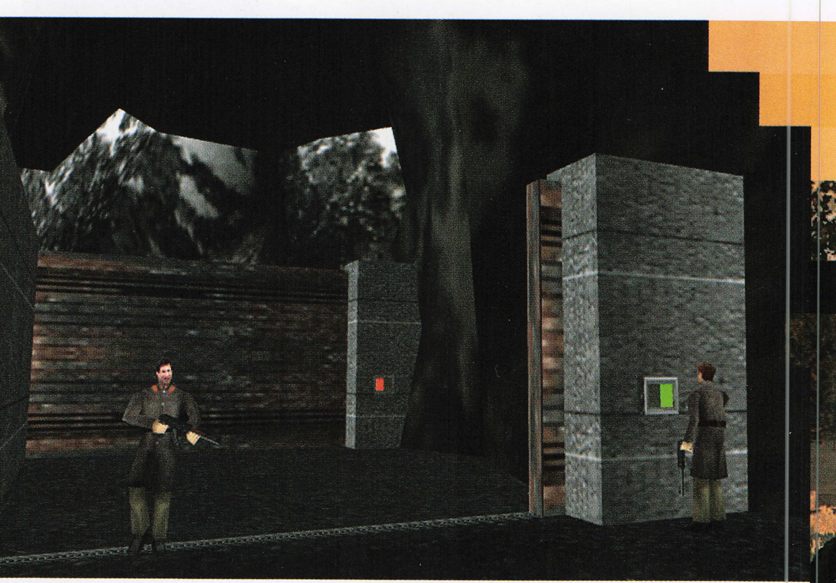
Xbox 360/PS3, 2009, £180

To begin with everyone reacted in horror. The thought of the legendary back catalogue of Beatles songs hitting a console with a CGI Lennon and you on the plastic drums seemed blasphemous. But the glorious, psychedelic *Yellow Submarine* styling and the way *Rock Band* makes you feel like you actually paid attention in music lessons won the whole world over.

Where's *Guitar Hero* gone?

Times change. People move on. *Guitar Hero* was a sensation in 2005, but it's been eclipsed by the more versatile *Rock Band* with its tempting array of instruments and vast downloadable library of songs. It's made by the people behind *Guitar Hero*, so that's OK.

by
I wan- na be your man
4x
8
1, 025, 87
6x
4x
4x

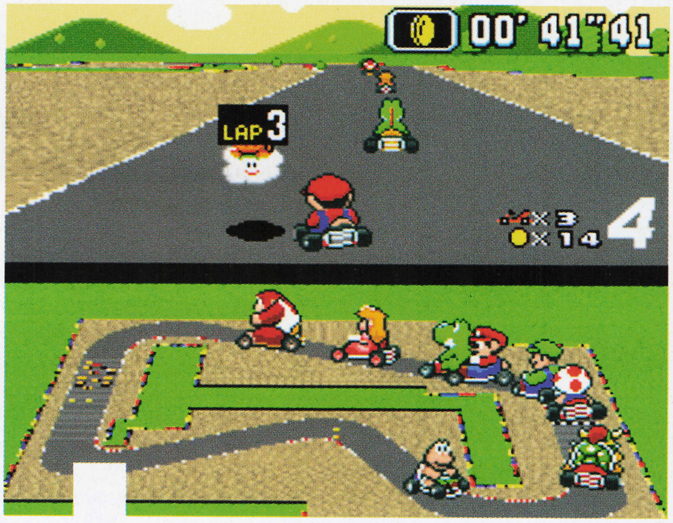


10 GoldenEye 007

#9 last year

N64, 1997

Nintendo's kid-friendly, rainbow-coloured console fantasy land wasn't where you'd expect a violent gaming classic to appear, but that's exactly what developer Rare managed to magic up in its Leicestershire base. It wasn't just the clever mix of action and stealth that made this game an N64 classic; *GoldenEye* also managed to perfect arcade-style multiplayer shooting and make it all feel perfectly at home on Nintendo's N64 controller. It even had hidden bonus missions for beating it on harder difficulties, ensuring it remained in the slots of Ninty fans for years to come.

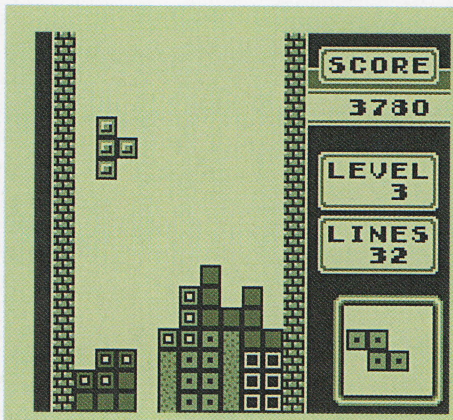


9 Super Mario Kart

#8 last year

SNES, 1993

No one's pulled off anything like this since, with Nintendo somehow combining racing and battling to absolute perfection. Technically astounding at the time, thanks to its use of Nintendo's custom "Mode 7" scaling and rotation technology which brought the flat race tracks to life, the game then layered a complex system of weapons and power-ups on top of it all. It worked so well Nintendo is still selling virtually identical versions of this today, with *DS Mario Kart* a day one must-buy for all modern-day Nintendo gamers.



8 Tetris

#7 last year

Game Boy, 1989

Poor old Alexey Pajitnov famously didn't make much money from his Soviet-era exercise in obsessive compulsion, but his loss is pretty much everyone's gain. It was originally written on an Elektronika 60 terminal, but unless you were a Russian computer scientist you are more likely to have played it on a Game Boy, which owes much of its success to *Tetris*. Its block-slotting gameplay has been ported with varying degrees of success to every game system – and key ring – known to man.

Tetris in numbers

How do you say…
Tetris has been translated into over 50 languages – not that it's particularly hard to translate "Press start" and "High score".

Beat It
Nintendo sold over 35 million copies of *Tetris* for its original Game Boy. That's as many LPs as Jacko's sold since he died.

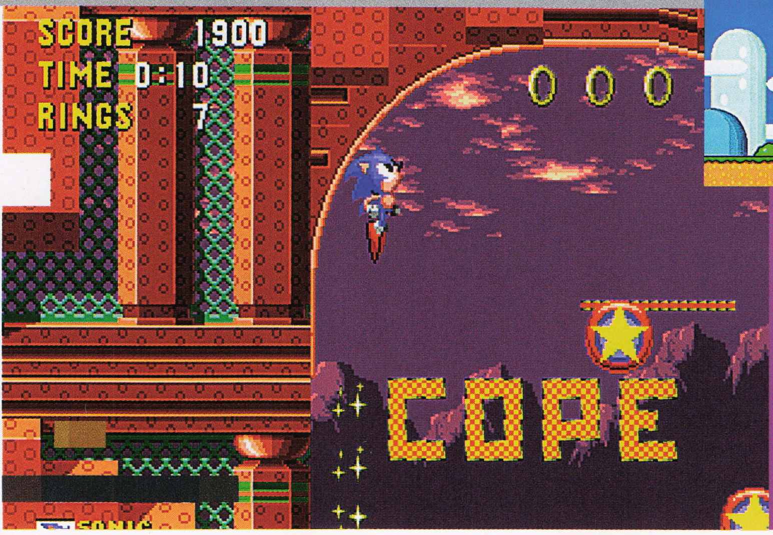
A ton of bricks
Tetris continues to crush all comers. More than 75 million people have bought the retro game to play on their swanky new mobile phones.

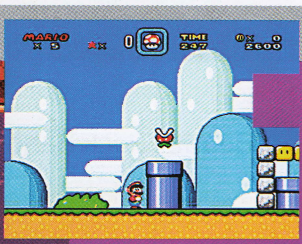
7 Sonic The Hedgehog

#6 last year

Mega Drive, 1991

Ah, *Sonic*: the game that made Sega what it is today. Or, at least, made Sega what it was in the early 1990s. Taking the familiar genre of platform gaming and simultaneously simplifying the levels and speeding up the play, Sega's Sonic Team created a cheery, colourful experience that blended sound and visuals to perfection. The rotating bonus round provided a change of pace, while the bumbling Dr Robotnik embarked upon his futile lifelong mission to "get" Sonic via a collection of convoluted end-of-stage boss fights. Starlight Zone was the best level. Officially.





Sonic vs Mario

Mario was bigger, *Sonic* was cooler. *Mario* had the history, while *Sonic* was considered the exciting new thing. *Sonic* was too easy, *Mario* a nightmare. Arguments about which game was the best still rage today… in some small and poorly tended corners of the internet.

6 Red Dead Redemption

New Entry

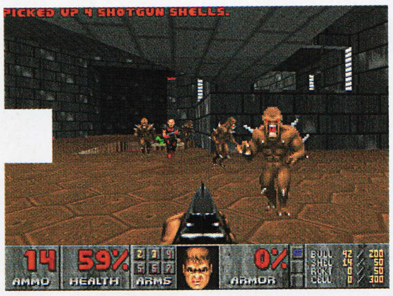
Xbox 360, PS3, 2010 £40

Rockstar finally released its cowboy adventure in 2010, and it was worth the wait. Bringing the same open-world, roaming play that made the *Grand Theft Auto* games such a hit to the Wild West of the early 1900s, *Red Dead Redemption*'s plot is classic Rockstar: spurned angry man seeks revenge. Revenge handed out in the form of death. Death to everyone and everything. There's also plenty of the sort of bad things people who like to get offended to get offended about, often involving poor, innocent nuns.

5 Doom

PC, 1993

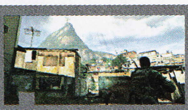
#4 last year



Whatever you were playing last night owes a debt to id Software's *Doom*. The 3D shooter took the company's previous *Wolfenstein* 3D and made everything better, combining proper 3D Gothic architecture with demonic monsters – and shotguns. It dominated the PC scene of the day, thanks to its innovative use of the shareware model to give away levels, so even people too poor or tight to buy it were still touched by *Doom*'s genius in some way. Many remain touched in a slightly different way by its use of the chainsaw as a weapon, which won it a reputation as a sick murder sim when it was actually more *Total Recall* than *The Exorcist*.

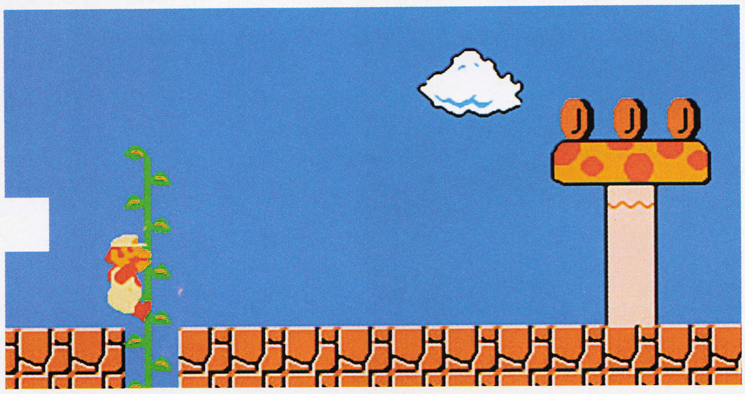
Doom: The Modern Era

Halo 3
Xbox 360, £40
Halo is basically just *Doom* with a shield and no sense of humour whatsoever. DOOM WINS.



COD: Modern Warfare 2 PS3, Xbox 360, PC, Wii £40
Doom but with terrorists and much fiddlier weapon aiming. DOOM WINS.

Bioshock
PS3, Xbox 360, £40
Doom again, but underwater, and with a little girl getting in the way. DOOM WINS.



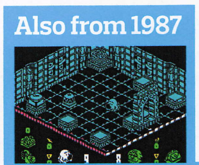
4 Super Mario Bros

NES, 1987

#3 last year

The game that introduced the classic style of Mario we still see today, and the game that powered Nintendo's 8-bit NES to monstrous success around the globe. The building blocks plonked into place by Nintendo here set the tone for the next decade of console gaming, with numerous power-ups introducing crazy new skills and play styles to an agog generation. Where *Super Mario Bros* really excelled was in its scope and size, with each level not only huge and challenging, but also rammed with hidden warp pipes, secret areas and level-skipping short cuts. You didn't just play it, you had to sit down and plot a method of attack, becoming familiar with every screen and block contained within it. Proper fans can still draw every level from memory today.

Also from 1987

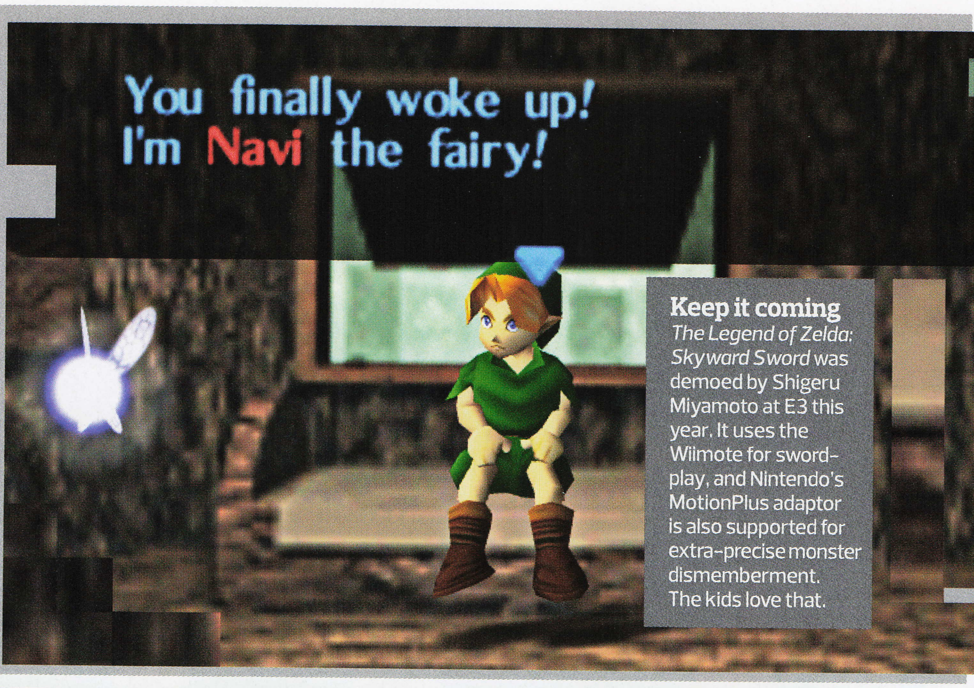


Head Over Heels ZX Spectrum
The realistic (for 1987) isometric style wasn't anything new, but the concept of controlling two differently-abled characters was amazing (in 1987).

3 The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time N64, 1998

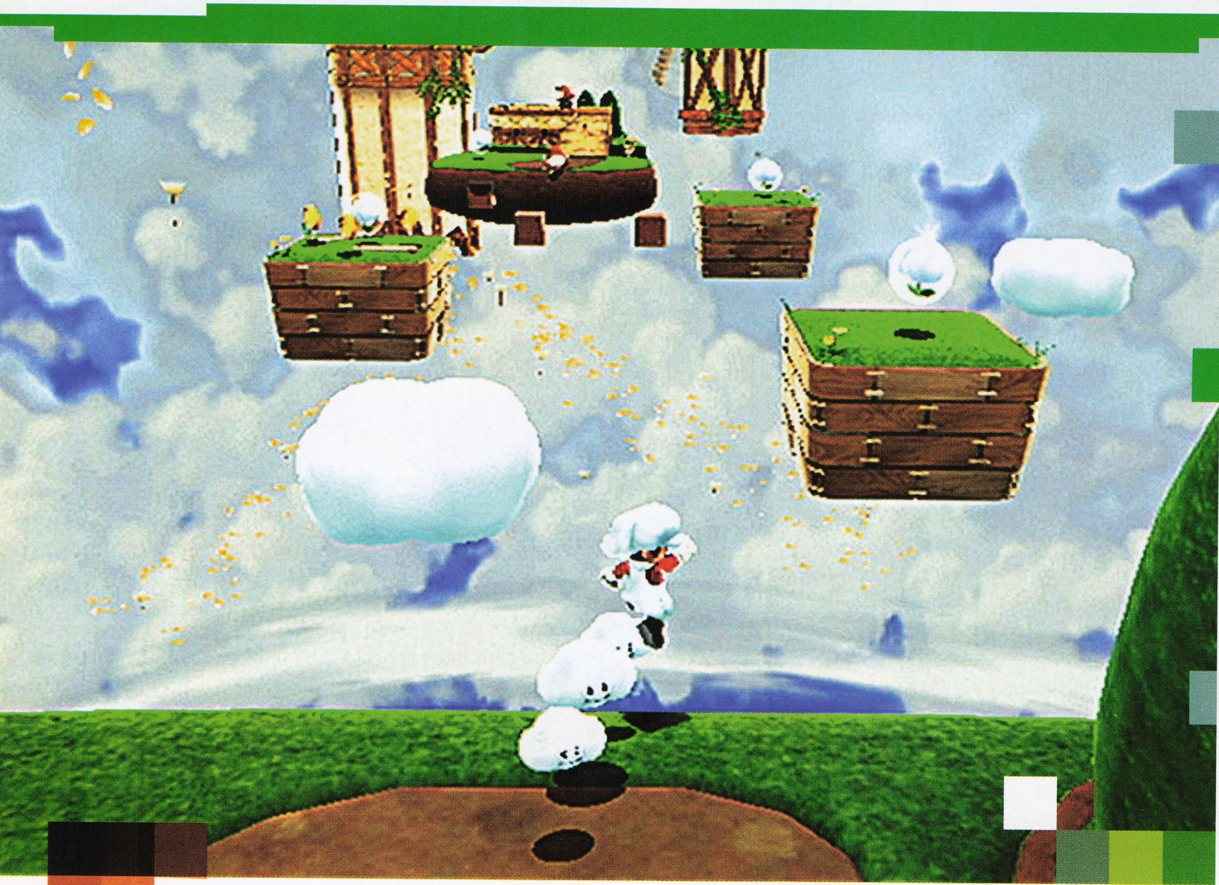
#2 last year

The *Zelda* mythology was already well established by the time the RPG series made its way onto the N64, although one thing was entirely new: 3D. The move into the third dimension looked effortless for Nintendo. While other developers blundered around and struggled to make players feel in control of their new 3D updates, *Zelda*'s system was simply superb. Numerous user-friendly lock-ons and targeting assists made playing the game feel completely instinctive, letting players concentrate on the story unfolding in Hyrule and mastering the game's numerous quests. And the Ocarina itself? A clever puzzle-solving plot device and nice way to skip around the gaming world without suffering. The role-playing world finally had a beautiful and accessible game for everyone.



You finally woke up!
I'm Navi the fairy!

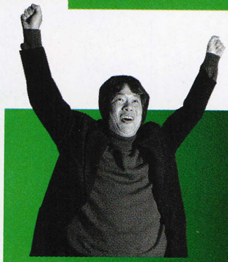
Keep it coming
The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword was demoed by Shigeru Miyamoto at E3 this year. It uses the Wiimote for sword-play, and Nintendo's MotionPlus adaptor is also supported for extra-precise monster dismemberment. The kids love that.



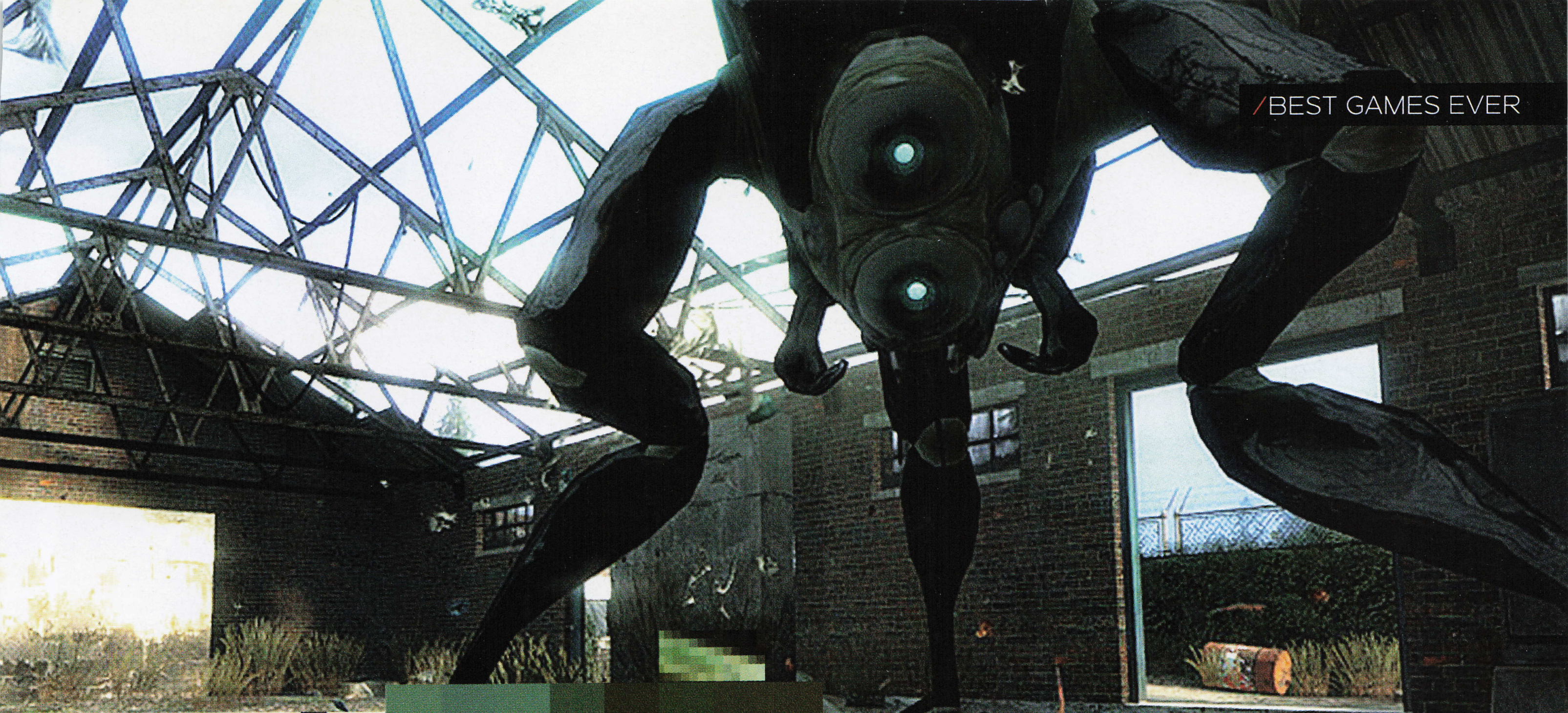
2 Wii, 2010 £40

New Entry

The plot is something about Mario and Princess Peach. But that's not important. What's so magical and thrilling about *Mario Galaxy 2* is the way this is not some half-arsed sequel that cashes in on the success of the first Wii game; *Galaxy 2* is packed full of new power-ups and ideas that make it a true gamer's game for Nintendo's Wii. Mario now has a drill, and his old pet/friend Yoshi has turned up too, helping to add new layers of complexity to the game's innovative 3D, puzzle-solving theme. Best of all is the style of the thing. Its curved, surreal worlds make it look and feel like a proper, classic video game – one you can really lose yourself in and suspend disbelief, rather than spending your time complaining that the faces aren't realistic enough. In fact, there is literally no realism in the game whatsoever. It'll make you long for the old days when games were colourful, and not all about marines running down corridors.



The Legend of Nintendo
This happy-looking gentleman is Shigeru Miyamoto. He's the King of the World if you're a Nintendo fan, thanks to being the creative force behind such classics as *Donkey Kong*, the *Mario* series, *Zelda* and *Nintendogs*. Yep, he's been around for quite some time. He is the Morgan Freeman of the games world, always popping up when you least expect it. He's known to be taking home a salary of around £1m a year for his work – if you can call it work – including several large performance-related bonuses. Never afraid to cut through the PR nonsense and speak his mind, he's happy to laugh about the opposition, recently branding Microsoft and Sony's moves into motion-control gaming as "copies" they're creating "for the sake of it."



1 Half-Life 2

#1 last year

PC, 2004

You have to admire developer Valve's ability to take its time. *Half-Life 2* launched a full six years after the first *Half-Life*, and was clearly a labour of love. It takes place in a futuristic dystopia, where Earth has been colonised by alien invaders. So far, so like every other shooter out there. But what sets *Half-Life 2* apart from the crowd is its design. The world is simply a great place to be, thanks to looking and feeling like a proper world, not some tired old collection of sci-fi cliches dotted randomly around a map.

This world is enhanced by real physics, with weapons and vehicles just feeling... right. You don't have to learn anything, it all works like you'd imagine it should. The story – told through the eyes of Gordon Freeman, the mute lead character – is absorbing and one you actually pay attention to rather than trying to skip, plus it unfolds without jarring cutaways.

Despite launching way back in 2004, *Half-Life 2* is still being developed and added to. There are numerous fan mods out there, while official updates Episodes 1 & 2 have already been released, and Episode 3 is expected... sometime this decade. Valve's *Orange Box* includes *Half-Life 2*, Episodes 1 & 2, *Portal* and *Team Fortress 2*, for just £15. Get in line!

Also by Valve...

Portal, 2007
A gem of a game, one that throws players into a bizarre world of featureless rooms and physics puzzles. Tired of cliche-driven offerings? Give this clever concept a go.

TEAM FORTRESS 2, 2007
Valve went a bit crazy and opted for a cartoon style for its team-based shooter sequel, but the action was precise and definitely for the grown-ups.

LEFT 4 DEAD 2, 2009
A zombie-based shooter built entirely around cooperative play, this really is online gaming at its best. Gruesome and visually inventive, it's typical Valve.

'CLASSY, EPIC, LUSH, DETAILED, BELIEVABLE' - PC ZONE

'I'VE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THIS WILL BE ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2010' - VIDEOGAMER.COM

'AMBITIOUS, STYLISH AND LOVINGLY CRAFTED' - PSM3

18

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PhysX by NVIDIA

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PS3 PlayStation 3 PlayStation Network XBOX 360 XBOX LIVE PC DVD ROM 2K GAMES

TESTED

Samsung Wave

£300 | www.samsung.co.uk

A slim, glamorous smartphone with a dazzling screen and its own, brand-new multitasking operating system: can the Wave make a big splash in a sea of iPhone rivals?

SAMSUNG
16:27
Edit
1
Logs
Social hub
Music
Internet
Email
My files
Calendar
Samsung Apps
Smart search
Clock
Camera
Settings
Keypad
Contacts
Messages

The Wave's 3.3in display is a real eye-popper. It uses Super AMOLED tech for vivid, ultra-colourful icons, images and video, all of which is pin-sharp thanks to the 480x800-pixel resolution. That doesn't quite match iPhone 4's 640x960 pixels but it beats most of the competition.

With Samsung's 1GHz Hummingbird processor inside, everything whizzes along. **The touchscreen is very responsive**, widgets are quick to launch and web pages load instantly.

The Wave takes hi-def video at 720p, matching the iPhone 4, but also shoots in slo-mo and has a low-res mode for MMS messaging. The rear camera has a decent 5MP sensor with LED flash that's good enough to act as a respectable day-to-day snapper.

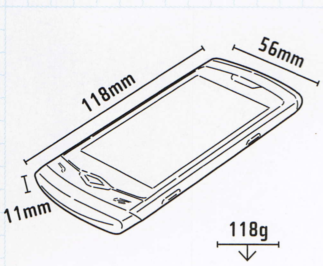
Build quality is high. Samsung has fashioned an 11mm-thick handset shrouded largely in aluminium. It's not a sleeve of metal like the HTC Legend but still very attractive. **The only let-down is the menu button which is made of cheap, shiny plastic**.

[Vs] APPLE iPHONE 4

from £500 | www.apple.com/uk

The iPhone's screen is even sharper than the Wave's. Its FaceTime video calling feature is impressive but works over Wi-Fi only (the Wave makes video calls over 3G). The iPhone has the edge on usability and is way ahead on apps, but you pay a fair whack extra for the benefit. ★★★★★

TECH SPECS: SAMSUNG WAVE



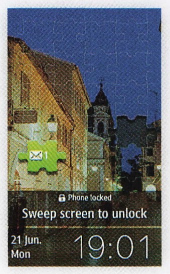
Display 480x800, Super AMOLED, capacitive touchscreen
OS Bada + TouchWiz
Storage 390MB + microSD
Camera 5MP, AF, LED flash + VGA
Video 720p@30fps
Connectivity A-GPS, Bluetooth 3.0, HSDPA, TV-out, USB, Wi-Fi (802.11 b/g/n)
Sensors Accelerometer, compass
Battery 7hrs talk, 550hrs standby

STUFF SAYS ★★★★☆

Slick and slinky with a stunning screen, the Wave is a highly desirable smartphone

HOW SMART IS BADA?

The Wave runs Samsung's new Bada OS, with its TouchWiz interface on top. Here it offers up to ten widget-based homescreens, along with a series of iPhone-style grids of app icons. Annoyingly, you can't add these icons to the homescreens. Bada supports multi-touch, and the pinch-to-zoom feature we know from the iPhone is smooth and very responsive thanks to the Wave's 1GHz processor. However, when you're typing, the keyboard only responds to one touch at a time.


Phone locked
Sweep screen to unlock
21 Jun. Mon 19:01

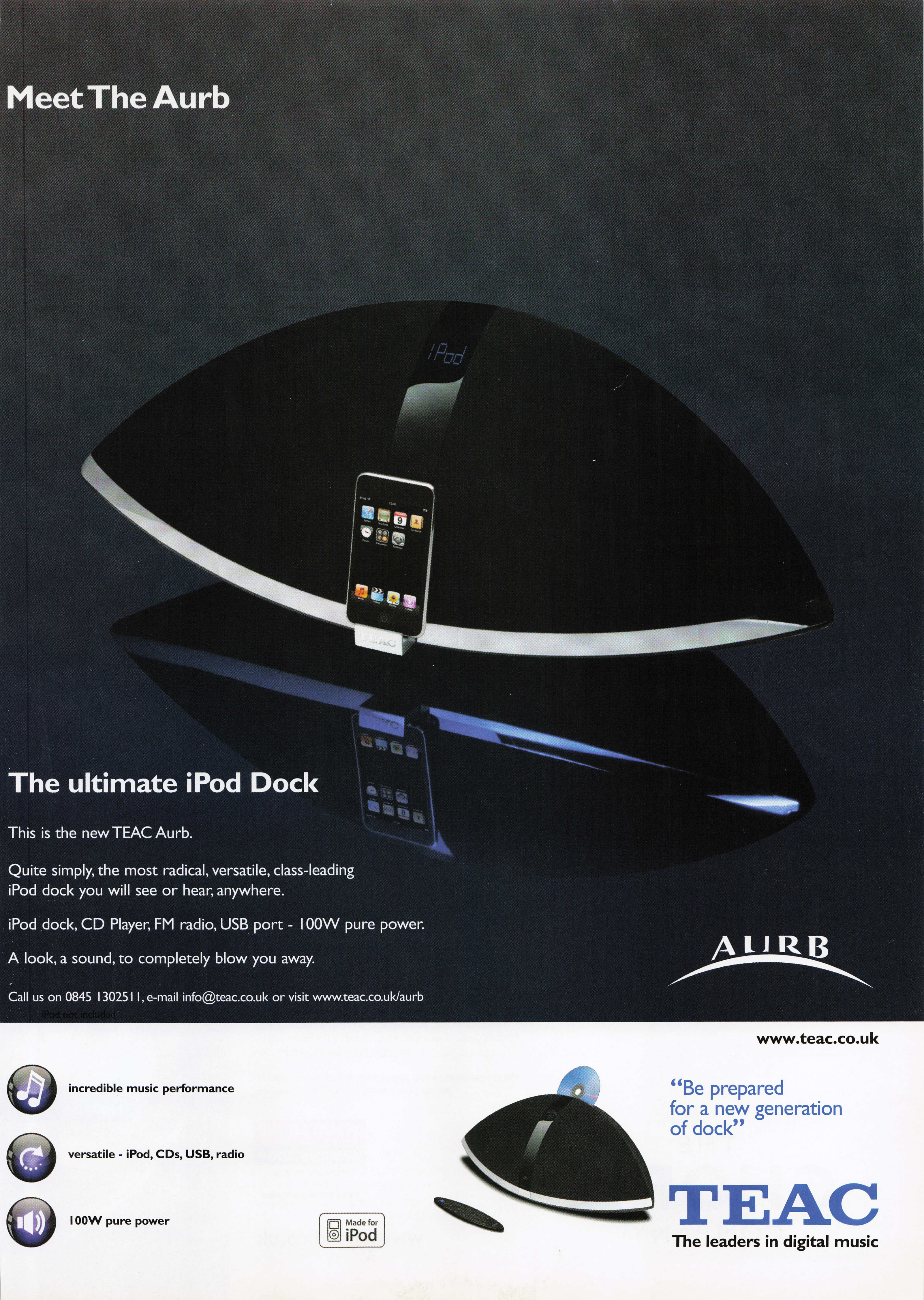
There are neat touches throughout, such as the text message notifications that appear as pieces of a jigsaw puzzle (slide them into an empty slot to read them) and the Android-style drop-down menu.

Samsung has its own app store with a dedicated widget onboard. Of course, it's not going to match the Apple App Store any time soon but includes a reasonable selection of the usual suspects: games, spirit level, Tube maps and flatulence simulators, all of which can be multitasked in slick fashion.

Widget
BBC iPlayer
BBC NEWS
BBC SPORT

Widget
Samsung Apps
Jun 2010

[Words David Phelan]



Meet The Aurb

The ultimate iPod Dock

This is the new TEAC Aurb.

Quite simply, the most radical, versatile, class-leading iPod dock you will see or hear, anywhere.

iPod dock, CD Player, FM radio, USB port - 100W pure power.

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AURB

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iPod not included

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incredible music performance

versatile - iPod, CDs, USB, radio

100W pure power

Made for iPod

"Be prepared for a new generation of dock"

TEAC

The leaders in digital music

"Video games are bad for you? That's what they said about rock and roll."
Shigeru Miyamoto

Just play

Chord HDMI cables

Like every other component in your system, the HDMI cable you choose can have a significant effect on your enjoyment of films, TV and games. We have applied our 25 years' experience in cable design to producing class-leading HDMI cables. These award-winning, high-speed cables will deliver the best possible picture and sound quality from any high definition source, including 3D. Whether a film aficionado, MMORPG player or a sports fan, Chord HDMI cables will put you right in the middle of the action.

We are passionate about games, films and music and wouldn't expect you to settle for anything but the best.

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PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
CABLES
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THE
CHORD™
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THE CHORD COMPANY
PLAYSTATION

DOCK AND AWE

Unleash the sonic power of your iPod or iPhone by mating it with a home speaker dock

11:11
The Futureheads
Heartbeat Song
The Chaos
THE FUTUREHEADS
THE CHAOS
0:39
-2:59
2 of 3
MENU
CONNECT

Noise control
There's a touch-sensitive strip on top of the dock that acts as a volume control. Slide your finger along it and the level bobs up and down accordingly.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

■ Compatibility
Do check your iPod works with the dock you fancy. These all work with the iPhone.

■ Power
If you'll be using it for entertaining you'll need a dock that can handle high volumes. Generally, more Watts means more loud.

■ Inputs
An auxiliary input will let you hook up a non-Apple player, a phone or a computer. A 3.5mm socket will do the job but stereo RCAs are useful too.

■ Remote
If there is one, put it through its paces. Usability does vary.

Creative ZiiSound D5

£280 | www.uk.creative.com

What's the deal?
The docking section of the ZiiSound includes a detachable Bluetooth dongle, allowing you to take your iPod up to ten metres from the speakers and beam the audio across the room. It'll also stream from any other Bluetooth devices you might have.

Dock solid?
It works extremely well and sounds surprisingly capable. Bluetooth systems have something of a bad reputation, but the D5 fires out a meaty, full-bodied sound thanks in no small part to its generous rear bass port. The high notes can sound a tad edgy, but that's our only niggle. There's even a very discreet USB plug (the BT-D1, £40) that'll bring your PC or Mac into the game.

Stuff says ★★★★☆
A musical, well-executed wireless speaker dock that showcases Bluetooth streaming to full effect.

TECH 3.5mm input ● 30W ● Bluetooth 2.0 +EDR ● 90x425x110mm ● 3.8kg

Orbitsound T12

£300 | www.orbitsound.com

What's the deal?
An iPod-friendly soundbar that comes with a subwoofer in tow. Thanks to the T12's optical input, it can also double as an upgrade for a TV's speaker system. A fully functional remote is included too.

Dock solid?
Orbitsound's unique "spatial stereo" tech means the T12 is the most room-filling dock here, and unlike other systems, the sound's character is consistent from wherever you stand. But there's a lack of refinement and a general rawness to it that we didn't get on with. Although the subwoofer provides extra heft and grunt, it doesn't integrate especially well with the soundbar. Auditioning before buying is essential.

Stuff says ★★★☆☆
It's an interesting idea but we're not convinced by the sound quality.

TECH Coaxial digital, optical digital, RCA ● 80W ● 100x605x110mm (main), 460x230 x230mm (sub) ● 8kg

orbitsound T12

Wide boy
Flick the "Stereo Width" switch on the back of the soundbar if you want the T12 to catapult a broader spread of audio to fill your room.

Movie player
Component video outputs pump movies to your TV at pretty respectable quality.

iHome iP1

£280 | www.ihomeaudio.com

What's the deal?

A beefy, burly, 100W iPod dock that includes twin silk dome tweeters and dual fibreglass woofers. A button marked "B" is available to inject further excitement into your tunes and push the loudness well into neighbour-baiting territory.

Dock solid?

It's definitely a looker (so long as you view it from the front). At lower volumes things are well behaved and there's a decent spread of bass, midrange and treble, but things start to get flaky as you crank it up. Push that "B" button and it all starts to fall apart, displaying all the cohesion of the French national football team. But just because it can go loud, that doesn't mean it has to. Show some restraint and the iP1 will too.

Stuff says ★★★☆☆

A weighty and upfront dock that's a little too eager to please.

TECH 3.5mm, component video ● 100W ● 180x420x200mm ● 3.62kg

Field of streams
You can stream your entire iTunes music collection from a home computer to the Mini via USB, controlling playback with the pebble-esque remote.

B&W Zeppelin Mini

£300 | www.bowers-wilkins.co.uk

What's the deal?

This stylish, compact iPod dock packs some serious hi-fi pedigree. The rotating cradle allows you to watch videos in landscape format and use Cover Flow to skim through tracks using just your pinkie. Nice.

Dock solid?

Unquestionably. The Mini serves up a refined, natural sound that's overflowing with detail. It's ideally suited to smaller rooms, so don't expect bass weight of seismic proportions. While the original Zeppelin (below) has a greater ability to service big spaces, the Mini plumps firmly for quality over quantity, and the control it exerts over meaty basslines is second to none. For day-to-day listening you'd have to go a long way to beat this.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A talented dock with all the skills needed for audiophile-friendly sound.

TECH 3.5mm input, USB ● 36W ● 200x320x100mm ● 2.2kg

THE RIVALS

BUDGET

1 Klipsch iGroove HG
£130 | klipsch.co.uk
A curved chassis fashioned after a Roman amphitheatre gives the iGroove HG a dramatic appearance, backed up with a balanced, detailed and dynamic sound.
★★★★★

2 KitSound Boom Dock
£100 | www.kitsound.co.uk
This dock's huge sound will embarrass many of the £300 designs we've tested. Weighty, with just a hint of harshness, it's an FM/AM radio-packing bargain.
★★★★★

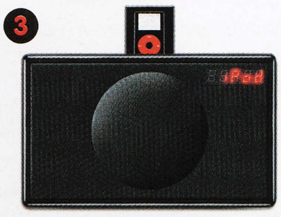
HIGH-END

3 GenevaSound Model L
£1000 | genevalab.co.uk
Think of the Model L as a super-sized Model S (see over) with a bigger chassis, a floor-standing pedestal, more power and a CD loader. Big and brilliant.
★★★★★

4 B&W Zeppelin
£400 | bowers-wilkins.co.uk
This is the Mini's equally talented bigger brother. The larger frame fits in more drivers and allows the Zeppelin to go louder with greater authority.
★★★★★

1

2

3


4

IPOD DOCKS

Pioneer XW-NAC3

£300 | www.pioneer.co.uk

What's the deal?
A multi-talented speaker system featuring internet radio, Bluetooth connectivity and twin docks that allow you to play and shuffle tracks from two different iPods. What more could you ask for?

Dock solid?
The Shuffle function crossfades neatly from one iPod to the other. It's not something we've ever felt the urge to do, but what you get up to with two iPods in your own home is your business. Pairing up a Bluetooth device is a painless affair, but with no Wi-Fi, internet radio has to come via an Ethernet cable. Messy. Sound quality is reasonable but lacks bass and is a tad brash compared to the likes of the B&W and GenevaSound.

Stuff says ★★★☆☆
A sackful of features, but usability and audio quality don't quite cut it.

TECH 3.5mm input, Ethernet, composite video, USB ● 20W ● Internet radio ● Bluetooth ● 3 finishes ● 134x410x153mm ● 2.9kg

Formats welcome
The Home Media Gallery feature lets you play music files from your PC over a local Ethernet network. Supported formats include WAV, FLAC, AAC and WMA.

Buttoned up
The touch-sensitive controls include a click-wheel volume control that ticks away like a dolphin impersonating a Geiger counter.

Stuff TEST WINNER

GenevaSound Model S

£300 | www.genevalab.co.uk

What's the deal?
In between cheese harvesting and penknife production, our Swiss pals have produced this colourful iPod speaker, complete with FM tuner, alarm clock and hidden iPod dock. Turn the system on and the dock connector reveals itself, rotating from its hidey hole beneath the top panel. At the same time, touch-sensitive controls make themselves known, glowing like electric hobs. Hobs for cooking up the food of love.

Dock solid?
Punchy, ballsy and exciting, the Model S can be the life and soul of any party. Bass is weighty and agile while vocals sound expressive and emotive. If you want more bass you can use the independent tone controls on the remote. The FM tuner works well, with up to six presets.

Stuff says ★★★★★
Anything this bold had better sound pretty good – fortunately it does.

TECH 3.5mm ● 30W ● FM radio ● 3 finishes ● 141x235x185mm ● 3.3kg

[Words Andy Madden Pictures RGB Digital]

We called them 'plus' for a reason...

Kingston TECHNOLOGY
64GB
SSDNOW V+ SERIES
128GB
256GB
512GB

Introducing the new SSD*Now* V+ series

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With 230MB/s read speed and up to 4,200 read Input Output operations Per Second (IOPS), shock resistance and outstanding energy efficiency, it's a great way to maximise your desktop or notebook. The revolutionary Kingston SSD*Now* V+ Series is a computer's dream come true.

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Kingston TECHNOLOGY

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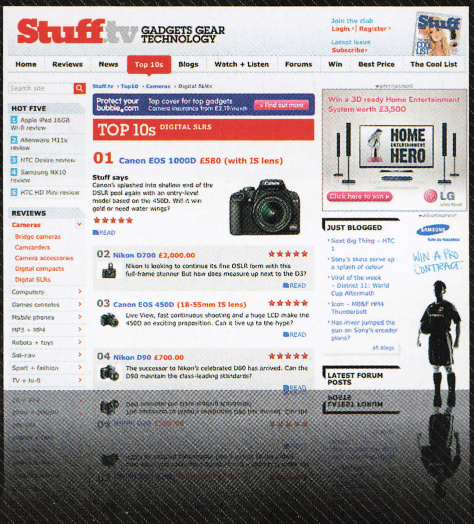
/SMARTPHONES
/SAT-NAV
/WIRELESS MUSIC
/BLU-RAY PLAYERS
/HOME CINEMA
/LCD TVs
/LAPTOPS
/CAMCORDERS
/COMPACT CAMERAS
/DIGITAL SLRs
/GAMING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HOT FIVE
1 Apple iPad 16GB Wi-fi review
2 Alienware M11x review
3 HTC Desire review
4 Samsung NX10 review
5 HTC HD Mini review
REVIEWS
Cameras
Bridge cameras
Camcorders
Camera accessories
Digital compacts
Digital SLRs
Computers
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Robots + toys
Sat-nav
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TOP 10s DIGITAL SLRS

01 Canon EOS 1000D £580 (with IS lens)

Stuff says
Canon's splashed into shallow end of the DSLR pool again with an entry-level model based on the 450D. Will it win gold or need water wings?
★★★★★
READ

02 Nikon D700 £2,000.00 ★★★★★
Nikon is looking to continue its fine DSLR form with this full-frame stunner But how does measure up next to the D3?
READ

03 Canon EOS 450D (18-55mm IS lens) ★★★★★
Live View, fast continuous shooting and a huge LCD make the 450D an exciting proposition. Can it live up to the hype?
READ

04 Nikon D90 £700.00 ★★★★★
The successor to Nikon's celebrated D80 has arrived. Can the D90 maintain the class-leading standards?
READ

- Next Big Thing – HTC 1
- Sony's skins serve up a splash of colour
- Viral of the week – District 11: World Cup Aftermath
- Icon – MB&F HM4 Thunderbolt
- Has iriver jumped the gun on Sony's ereader plans?

GADGET TOP 10s

We've tested them all to bring you the world's best gadgets

stuff.tv

THE COMPUTER IS PERSONAL AGAIN.

HP PAVILION DV6

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
HP recommends Windows 7.

Pavilion dv6

HP PAVILION DV6

"...what makes this generation of Pavilions different is the design."

LAPTOPMAG.COM

Ready to play? The HP Pavilion dv6 offers powerful performance, graphics, audio, video and HP software for outstanding multimedia and gaming. Plus, stay stylishly mobile with bold finishes, touchable textures and materials that fit your lifestyle.

Featuring the Intel® Core™ i3 processor,
smart performance starts here.

HP MINI 210

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
HP recommends Windows 7.

My Map
HP Mini

Intel® Atom™ inside™

HP MINI 210

> "Unlike some netbooks, the Mini 210 felt pretty solid."

Daniel S. Evans, PCMAG.COM*

Slim, portable, and available in multiple colours, the HP Mini 210 netbook is the ultimate PC companion. It lets you stay connected on the go with hours and hours of battery life.

Featuring the Intel® Atom® processor
for easy internet access.

HP ENVY14

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
HP recommends Windows 7.

intel®
CORE™ i5
inside™

HP ENVY^{14}

> "At just over 2 kg, the ENVY 14 has more than enough muscle for most users and can last for up to 14 hours on a single charge with an optional extended battery."

Xavier Lanier, Notebooks.com

Starting at 2.36 kg and 2.82 cm thin, the HP Envy^{14} notebook is packed with top-end components and a beautiful widescreen display, giving you exceptional mobile performance for the most demanding tasks.

Featuring the Intel® Core™ i5 processor, smart performance with a speed boost.

HP PAVILION DV3

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
HP recommends Windows 7.

hp
Pavilion dv3

intel®
CORE™ i5
inside™

HP PAVILION DV3

"...HP's great battery life makes it a great combination of versatility and value."

Eric Grevstad, PCMAG.COM*

With plenty of running time, the thin and stylish HP Pavilion dv3 notebook has the stamina to go all day. It delivers the performance you need in a lightweight design you'll appreciate – at a price you are sure to love.

Featuring the Intel® Core™ i5 processor,
boost your performance and style.

HP TOUCHSMART600 PC

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
HP recommends Windows 7.

Canvas
TouchSmart
Video
intel
CORE i5
inside

HP TOUCHSMART600 PC

"Credit HP for helping jump-start touch desktops."

PCMAG.COM*

From its elegant design and advanced touch features to its 58.4 cm (23") widescreen HD display, this wireless PC fits perfectly anywhere in your home. The powerful and compact HP TouchSmart600 redefines what you can do on a PC.

intel® CORE™ i5 inside™

Featuring the Intel® Core™ i5 processor, smart performance with a speed boost.

HP ENVY17

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
HP recommends Windows 7.

intel®
CORE™ i7
inside™

HP ENVY^{17}

"In terms of features, the ENVY 14 and 17 have the clear advantage over their rivals."

Cisco Cheng, PCMAG.COM*

The HP Envy^{17} is an exceptionally thin yet surprisingly durable notebook, delivering proven performance and mobility. Precision crafted from pure grade aluminium and magnesium it is inscribed with an elegant pattern, making it appeal to your inner artist or engineer.

Featuring the Intel® Core™ i7 processor, ultimate smart performance.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY AND UNIQUE PERSONALITY.

Not just faster. Smarter. With an HP system and the 2010 Intel® Core™ processor family, get the extra performance whenever you need it with a truly personal combination of style and power. It's innovation to help maximise your productivity and enhance your life.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK:
HP.COM/UK
INTEL.CO.UK/CORE

Ultimate smart performance. The 2010 Intel® Core™ i7 processor with a rich set of features provides serious multitaskers and multimedia enthusiasts the performance they need on the most demanding tasks.

Smart performance with a speed boost. The 2010 Intel® Core™ i5 processor provides exceptional performance on everyday applications with the ability to boost speed as needed for demanding tasks.

Smart performance starts here. The 2010 Intel® Core™ i3 processor provides a fast, responsive PC experience.

The Intel® Atom™ processor for your small connected companion.

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
HP recommends Windows 7.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK:
HP.COM/UK
INTEL.CO.UK/CORE

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12:00
Calendar

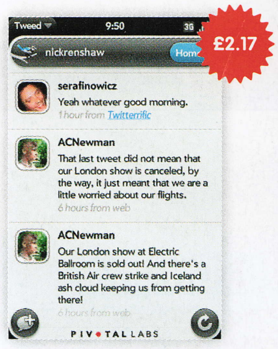
PLANET OF THE APPS

Give your Pre or Pixi a shot of funshine by loading it up with ten of the best Palm apps

#5: WebOS

Tweed

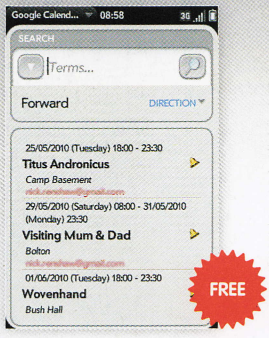
For Twitter fans there's little to choose between TweeFree and Tweed, but the latter has a more intuitive and speedier pop-up menu system. You have to pay for the privilege, but it's definitely worth the outlay. Sending tweets with photos, URLs and location couldn't be simpler. ★★★★★


Tweed
9:50
nickrenshaw
Home
£2.17
PIV•TAL LABS

serafinowicz
Yeah whatever good morning.
1 hour from Twitterrific

ACNewman
That last tweet did not mean that our London show is canceled, by the way, it just meant that we are a little worried about our flights.
6 hours from web

ACNewman
Our London show at Electric Ballroom is sold out! And there's a British Air crew strike and Iceland ash cloud keeping us from getting there!
6 hours from web


Google Calend...
08:58
SEARCH
Terms...
Forward
DIRECTION
FREE

25/05/2010 (Tuesday) 18:00 - 23:30
Titus Andronicus
Camp Basement
[redacted]

29/05/2010 (Saturday) 08:00 - 31/05/2010 (Monday) 23:30
Visiting Mum & Dad
Bolton
[redacted]

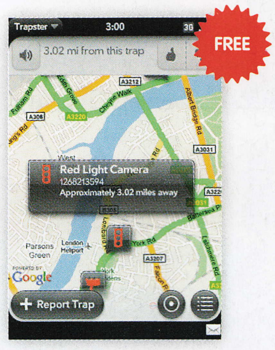
01/06/2010 (Tuesday) 18:00 - 23:30
Wovenhand
Bush Hall

Google Calendar Search

We love the fact that webOS integrates Google Calendar into the phone's set-up, but the lack of a search facility is a pain, especially if you have a packed schedule and need to find an entry sharpish. That's where this app comes in, letting you pinpoint past and upcoming events quickly. An essential add-on. ★★★★★

Trapster

Trapster's vast worldwide database of speed cameras is constantly updated by users. This app combines the info with your phone's GPS and Google Maps to warn of approaching cameras via voice announcements. Reporting a trap just takes three simple taps. ★★★★☆


Trapster
3:00
3.02 mi from this trap
FREE
Red Light Camera
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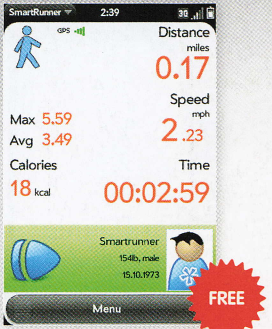
Approximately 3.02 miles away
Fulham Rd
Chelsea Walk
Albert Bridge Rd
York Rd
Parsons Green
London Heliport
Google
Report Trap


SmartRunner
2:39
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miles
0.17
Speed
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2.23
Max 5.59
Avg 3.49
Calories
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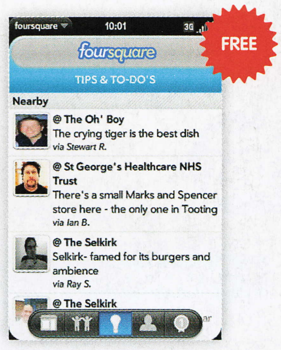
Smartrunner
154lb, male
15.10.1973
Menu
FREE

Smartrunner

Fitness apps are great motivators, and this one delivers a little beyond the standard info on distance, speed, time and calories burnt. It logs and plots your route on Bing Maps, which you can share with mates via Twitter and Facebook. You can also upload your exploits to the SmartRunner website. ★★★★☆

Foursquare

Foursquare was really made to help you discover new places via friends, but that use is fast being eclipsed in the race to collect badges, loyalty freebies and become the Mayor of Café Nero by visiting more than anyone else. This does it all in a clean, sleek interface. ★★★★★


foursquare
10:01
FREE
foursquare
TIPS & TO-DO'S
Nearby

@ The Oh' Boy
The crying tiger is the best dish
via Stewart R.

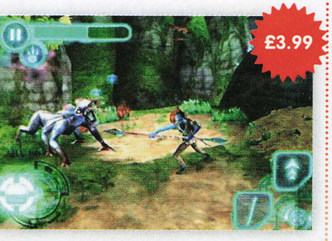
@ St George's Healthcare NHS Trust
There's a small Marks and Spencer store here - the only one in Tooting
via Ian B.

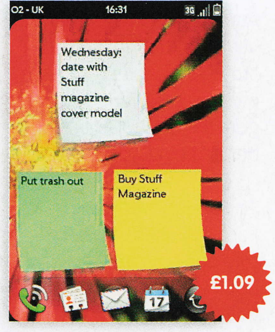
@ The Selkirk
Selkirk- famed for its burgers and ambience
via Ray S.

@ The Selkirk

James Cameron's Avatar

The latest webOS update supports 3D gaming and *Avatar* brilliantly showcases it with stunning visuals. The on-screen D-pad controls aren't ideal but the mixture of combat, platform action and RPG elements works well. Three difficulty settings are available to tweak it to your skill level. ★★★★☆




O2 - UK
16:31
£1.09
17

Wednesday: date with Stuff magazine cover model

Put trash out

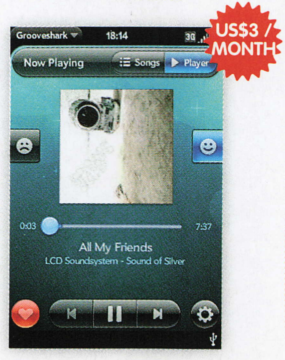
Buy Stuff Magazine

Stickyman

If you have a memory like a sieve or just like writing "To do" lists, Stickyman is here to help. It lets you cover your homescreen in up to 20 sticky notes in a choice of four colours. Our only gripe is that you can't edit or move the notes around directly from the homescreen – you have to go back into the app to do so. ★★★☆☆

Grooveshark

A cross between Spotify and Pandora radio, this easy-to-use app lets you stream songs, albums or playlists via 3G or Wi-Fi. Search its five million tracks and it'll create a radio playlist based on your choice. In our tests, listening over 3G was generally stable and sound quality highly listenable. ★★★★☆


Grooveshark
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US$3 / MONTH
Now Playing
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Player
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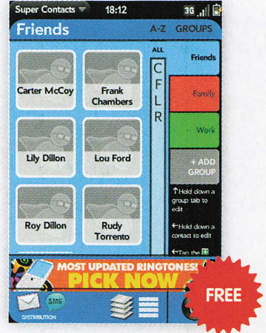
All My Friends
LCD Soundsystem - Sound of Silver


Super Contacts
18:12
Friends
A-Z
GROUPS
ALL
Carter McCoy
Frank Chambers
Lily Dillon
Lou Ford
Roy Dillon
Rudy Torrento
C
F
L
R
Friends
Family
Work
+ ADD GROUP
MOST UPDATED RINGTONES!
PICK NOW
SMS
DISTRIBUTION
FREE

↑Hold down a group tab to edit

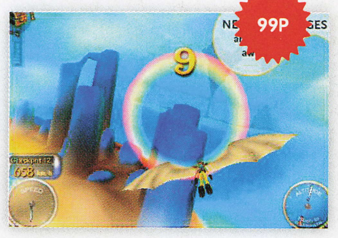
←Hold down a contact to edit

Super Contacts

With no current Palm handsets offering a group messaging feature, the Super Contacts app is a must. It lets you create and customise three groups, each with up to 12 contacts (or more if you pay £1.44 for the Plus edition). You can then send an email or text to the whole group in one go. ★★★★☆

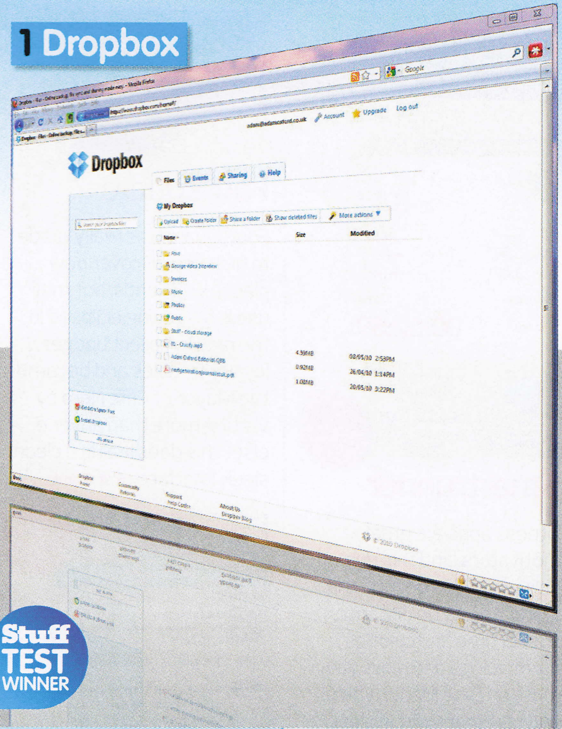
Glyder 2

On paper, *Glyder 2* doesn't sound wildly exciting: fly your winged character around six islands, collecting crystals and unlocking mini games. But taming the tilt controls to swoop and glide while maintaining altitude and speed is compulsive. Precarious mountainside crystals add to the challenge before you. ★★★★★



EVERY CLOUD HAS

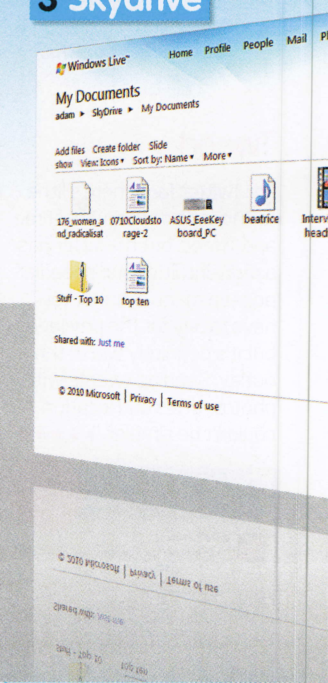
Has the hard drive had its day? We try five of the best cloud storage apps to find out


1 Dropbox
Dropbox

2 Humyo
humyo.com - My Files - Mozilla Firefox
File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help
iGoogle
https://www.humyo.com/?#/10383851/
humyo.com - My Files
humyo.com
Common Tasks
Download this folder
Make a new folder
All Folders
My Files
Music
Photos
Videos
Teamspaces
Shared With Me
Recycle Bin
Drag & Drop Upload
Drag and drop files here
search...
Upload Files
File Filters
Done

Tip: Install humyo SmartDrive to synchronise the folders on your computer with your online storage space. Your latest files will always be available online and on each computer you use, saving you time uploading and ensuring your data is always backed up. Download Now

Name	Size	Type
Music		File Folder
Photos		File Folder
Videos		File Folder
Welcome to humyo	18.50 KB	Microsoft Word Document
Welcome to humyo	0.58 MB	PDF Document


3 Skydrive
Windows Live
Home
Profile
People
Mail
My Documents
adam ▸ SkyDrive ▸ My Documents
Add files
Create folder
Slide show
View: Icons ▾
Sort by: Name ▾
More ▾
176_women_and_radicalisat
0710Cloudstorage-2
ASUS_EeeKeyboard_PC
beatrice
Stuff - Top 10
top ten
© 2010 Microsoft
Privacy
Terms of use

Shared with: Just me

Stuff TEST WINNER

1 Dropbox

from £free
www.dropbox.com

What's the forecast?
Dropbox is the fastest and easiest to use cloud service. But upgrading from the standard 2GB package costs US$10 a month for 50GB, so it's pricey for a comprehensive back-up.

The shizzle or drizzle?
Dropbox shows up as a desktop folder in Windows, Mac OS X or Linux. Just drop a file in and it'll appear on any linked computer, web browser, iPad, iPhone or Android handset. The big plus is ease of use: there's no faffing with web dialogues, and files are kept up to date on all machines so you always have local copies. But with only 2GB for free, Dropbox is best for temporary use.

Stuff says ★★★★★

2 Humyo

from £free
www.humyo.com

What's the forecast?
Freeloaders only get 10GB of online space, accessed through a web browser, but an annual £50 fee nets you 100GB and includes extras such as technical support and local file syncing.

The shizzle or drizzle?
Humyo's free service has the same drawbacks as Skydrive with less capacity, but it is quick with good streaming and media sharing options. Pay the subscription, though, and it's on par with the best, appearing as a hard drive in Windows Explorer or OSX with folder syncing for offline access. It even has a built-in word processor for editing files online. But there's still no mobile app.

Stuff says ★★★★☆

3 Skydrive

from £free
www.skydrive.live.com

What's the forecast?
Microsoft's Skydrive is the biggest, if not the best. You get an enormous 25GB of online space to store and share files for free, and it's all accessed via a Windows Live account.

The shizzle or drizzle?
It's a Microsoft product, but bizarrely Skydrive has no integration with Windows desktop. Unlike Dropbox and Asus Web Storage, you have to go through upload dialogues to transfer files up to 50MB in size, or drag and drop with Internet Explorer. You can get around this with free cloud desktop services such as Gladinet.com, but back-up and offline options still involve a monthly fee.

Stuff says ★★★★☆

4 Asus

from £free
www.asuswebstorage.com

What's the forecast?
Asus Web Storage offers various amounts of free storage for Asus computer owners. Everyone else gets a measly 1GB account before being asked for cash.

The shizzle or drizzle?
For non-Asus users the free option is of little worth, but if you're prepared to pay a subscription this combines the best features of all the rest. It's a drag and drop folder in Windows and Linux, has automated back-up, single-link file-sharing plus an online contacts database. But it's slower than Dropbox, there's no mobile app and the amount of space and duration of the service varies with hardware models.

Stuff says ★★★★☆

5 Livedrive

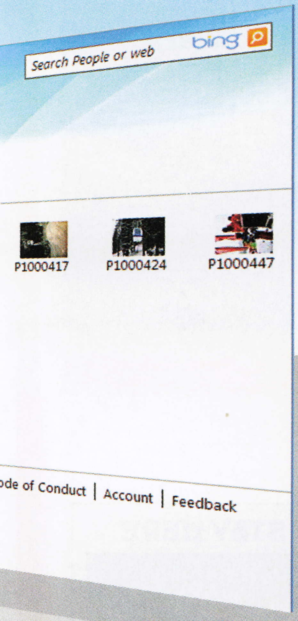
from £40/year
www.livedrive.com

What's the forecast?
There's no free option with Livedrive, but then there's no storage limit either. At £40 a year it's a reasonable price for a true back-up service that can mirror all your hard drives.

The shizzle or drizzle?
Livedrive guarantees high-speed access to its servers and ticks away in the background backing up folders, which you can then view through a web portal or iPhone app. There's a big drawback, though, as the best cloud features such as virtual drive access, live file syncing and Facebook integration cost £100 a year. For the best of both worlds, use Livedrive for back-up along with Dropbox

Stuff says ★★★★☆

A SILICON LINING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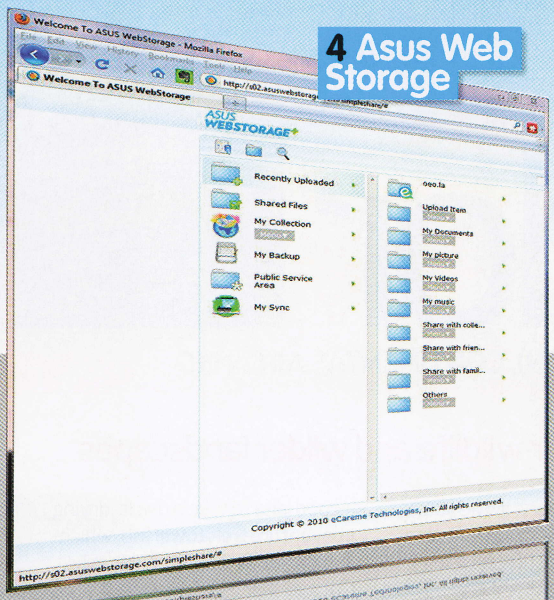
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My Collection
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My Sync
Upload Item
My Documents
My picture
My Videos
My music
Share with colle...
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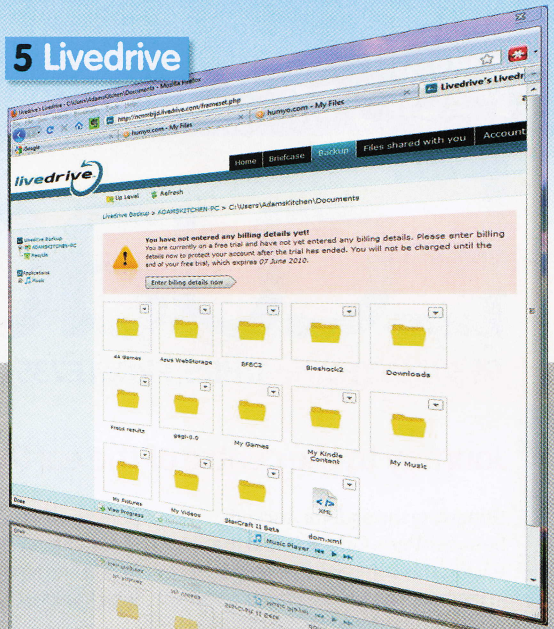
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Enter billing details now
4A Games
Asus WebStorage
BFBC2
Bioshock2
Downloads
My Games
My Kindle Content
My Music
My Videos
StarCraft II Beta
Music Player

You have not entered any billing details yet!
You are currently on a free trial and have not yet entered any billing details. Please enter billing details now to protect your account after the trial has ended. You will not be charged until the end of your free trial, which expires 07 June 2010.

Hardware alternatives

Netgear Stora

£150 | www.netgear.co.uk

In short An expandable 1TB box that connects to your Wi-Fi and the web as a whole, so you can access files and stream media from anywhere in the world.

In use It stores and shares files like Dropbox but without subscription fees. The Flash-based interface has a built-in media player too, so you can watch movies from its hard drives through your web browser, but it can be very fussy about codec support. ★★★★☆

Stuff TEST WINNER

Pogoplug

£100 | www.firebox.com

In short A brightly coloured four-port USB hub that hooks up to your router so you can access any attached hard drive over the internet or via the desktop app.

In use It's simple to use and the secure online interface is more straightforward and faster than the other two here. But you'll have to shell out more for a hard drive, so things could get costly. It's still a flexible hub, though, and we like the hot pink trim. ★★★★☆

Linksys Media Hub

£135 | www.linksys.co.uk

In short Simpler to use than even the Stora, the two are evenly matched for features, backing up files locally, ready for you to log in from anywhere you happen to be.

In use There's not a lot to choose between the Media Hub and the Stora, other than that this only comes with 500GB of space for a similar price. Both can punt files around the internet securely while acting as local servers for media at home. ★★★★☆

More handy cloud services

Ubuntu One

£free | www.one.ubuntu.com

Combines 2GB of Dropbox-like online storage with a contacts database, bookmark syncing, a note-taking app and even its very own music store. Mainly useful for Linux users. ★★★★☆

Evernote

£free | www.evernote.com

You can access this searchable note-taking app from your desktop, phone or browser. Hybrid cloud and local storage makes it quick and flexible. ★★★★★

Google

£free | www.google.co.uk

Google's ever increasing list of cloud services include things like Gmail and Picasa, but you are now also allowed 1GB of storage in Google Docs. ★★★★☆

MSpot (beta)

Invite only | www.mspot.com

MSpot promises to be a one-stop cloud shop for pretty much every kind of entertainment you can imagine. It could be the ultimate iPod in the sky.

Pack your bag for...

Ecuador

GETTING THERE> 17HRS, FROM £735 (RTN), CONTINENTAL AIRLINES

Journey to the centre of the earth for wildlife and wilder landscapes

Straddling the equator, tucked between Peru, Columbia and the Pacific, this compact cracker packs in smouldering volcanoes, colonial cities, the fearless wildlife of the Galápagos Islands and the buzzing, squawking, Amazon rainforest.

A city with altitude

Take a deep breath, because you'll need it. At 2850m, Quito is the planet's second-highest capital. The old town, nestling in its Andean eyrie, is all rambling streets and cobbled squares, colonial houses and ornate churches. A wideangle snapper will take it all in, and the compact **Canon Ixus 300 HS** is just the thing for capturing the breadth of the city and surrounding volcanoes, day or night.

By day, Quito is the ideal base for trips to the equator, and the 1000-year-old monument that marks the meridian at Catequillá hill should be top of your list. And to think, the ancient civilisation figured that out without the aid of an iPhone. Not that you'll have any such difficulties. As night falls, equip yourself with Apple's finest, loaded with **Lonely Planet's Spanish Phrasebook app** and explore Quito's nightlife. For a taste of the local music scene, head to El Pobre Diablo (elpobrediablo.com) and bust some moves to the pasillo-hop sounds.

Venture north beyond Catequillá to catch the indigenous craft market at Otavalo which takes place every Saturday, specialising in locally woven ponchos and pullovers. While you're there, check out the cloud forests at Mindo and Maquipucuna, bustling with kaleidoscopic butterflies.

Wet and wild

From Quito, hop down the eastern edge of the Andes and hook up with the Napo river for a whitewater rafting expedition into the relatively untouched Napo rainforest region. Pack your gear in the **Exped Drysack Pro** to keep it safe and dry, then stay at one of the jungle eco-lodges along the way. Depending on how adventurous you are, excursions into the wilderness can offer up sightings of tapirs, monkeys and even jaguars. A breathable **Rohan Elite jacket** will keep off the inevitable deluge from above without committing you to a sweaty boil-in-the-bag fate. Still, it's a good idea to take a quick-drying **Lifeventure trek towel** too, which should remain whiff-free thanks to its antibacterial treatment.

// The wilderness can offer sightings of tapirs, monkeys and even jaguars"

Ride the hottest road

The stunning drive south from Quito, along the spine of the Andes through the "Avenue of the Volcanoes", is not to be missed. This section of the Pan-American Highway follows the old Inca highway to Peru, penned in by a procession of snow-capped peaks including Cotopaxi, a conical volcano puckering up to kiss the sky at 5897m. But don't just pass it by: its long, llama-grazed slopes are ideal for mountain biking. Alternatively, saddle up for a horseback circuit around the crater, spotting condors *en route*. The high-tech polarising lenses in **Maui Jim's Black Rock shades** are ideal for reducing glare above the snowline, while that flyweight Rohan Elite jacket will repel gusty showers.

Do it like Darwin

You can't visit Ecuador without seeing the Galápagos Islands. Take a 650-mile cruise across the Pacific to witness the unique wildlife that inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. There you'll meet giant tortoises, huge iguanas, blue-footed boobies and balloon-breasted frigate birds. Offshore you can snorkel among penguins, turtles, iguanas and sea lions, or dive deeper to spot hammerhead and whale sharks.

STAY HERE

Nü House
www.nuhousehotels.com
Quito's hottest boutique hotel is set in the heart of La Mariscal, the capital's travellers' hub. Mod-cons such as Wi-Fi are on tap with equally modern Scandanavian-style interior decor.

TECH FIX

TeleféríQo
You don't have to rope up and don crampons to scale a volcano around here: the TeleféríQo is a space-age skytram that runs 1.5 miles up to the 4100m peak of Cruz Loma on Pichincha volcano, with views right across Quito.

[Words Paul Bloomfield Pictures RGB Digital, Paul Bloomfield]

Rohan Elite jacket
£200 | www.rohan.co.uk

Exped Drypack Pro
15L £23/25L £25 | www.facewest.co.uk

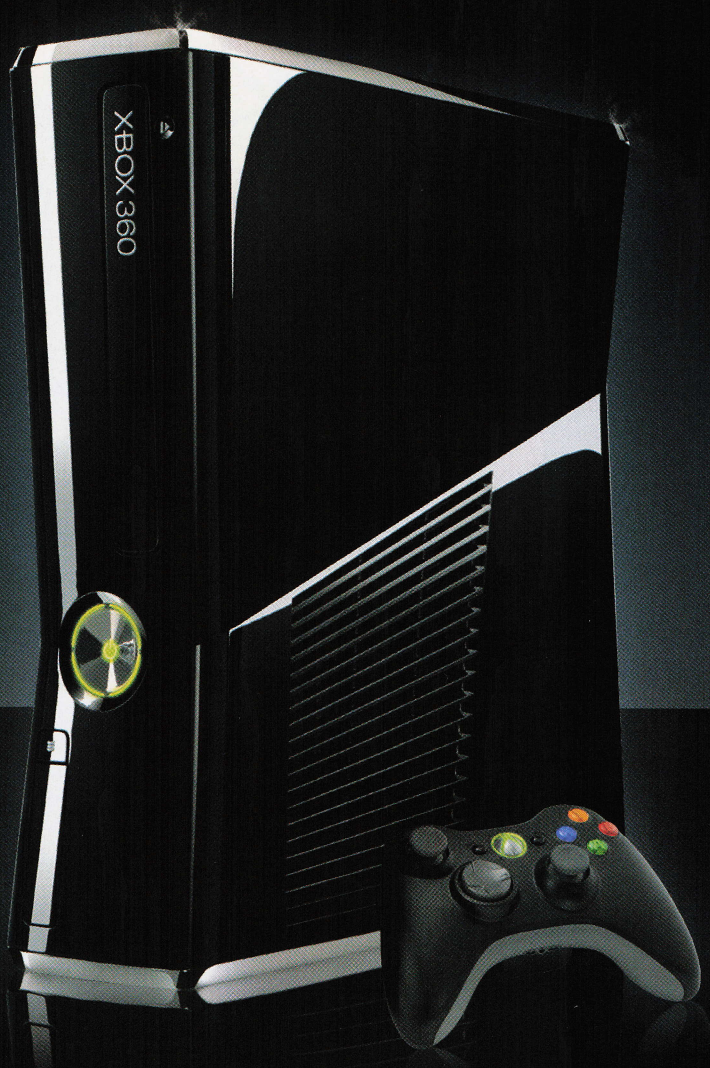
Maui Jim Black Rock shades
£180 | www.mauijim.com

Lonely Planet Spanish Phrasebook iPhone app
£5

Lifeventure trek towel
£25 (large) | www.lifeventure.co.uk

Canon Ixus 300 HS
£330 | www.canon.co.uk

Free gift number #6758



Free Xbox 360 250GB

The latest 250GB Xbox 360, in a gloss-black finish, is just one of the many games consoles available free with a new contract mobile phone from BuyMobilePhones.net.*

Choose from the latest handsets on a wide range of price plans - starting at just £15 per month - and get an amazing free games console such as a Nintendo Wii, Sony PS3 Slim or a handheld Sony PSP 3000.

buymobilephones.net

*Offers subject to acceptance on contract. Terms & Conditions apply. Order today on 08000 087 272 or visit www.buymobilephones.net

WIN!

£8000 OF PRIZES

This month, you could win a state-of-the-art home PC, an awesome hi-def projector and a £5000 holiday to barbecue heaven. Yum.

WIN! A LENOVO IDEACENTRE B500

If your home PC is a beige box, it's really time you upgraded – to one of these beauties, for free, for example...

The unceasing march of progress is a wonderful thing: home PCs are more powerful, versatile and efficient than ever. Most importantly of all, they look much nicer. Take the new Lenovo IdeaCentre B500 all-in-one: it can be specced with an Intel Core 2 Quad processor, discrete graphics, 4GB of memory and a 1TB hard disk. Yet it's sleek, stylish and takes up little more desk space than a keyboard. That's progress.

But the IdeaCentre B500 isn't just a powerful, fast-booting home computer – with a 23in hi-def screen, integrated JBL sound system, Blu-ray drive and digital TV tuner, it's a multimedia powerhouse. It even comes with an innovative four-in-one controller that can be used as a media remote control, a surface-free mouse, a VOIP phone handset and a motion-sensitive games controller. And while the IdeaCentre B500 is a potent gamer in base specification, equip it with a top-spec processor and an Nvidia GeForce GTS 250M graphics card and it becomes a hyper-powered gaming rig ready for a full-on frag-fest.

Lenovo's IdeaCentre B500 shows just how far PCs have come – and we have one to give away.

How to enter:

To be in with a chance of winning a Lenovo IdeaCentre B500 all-in-one worth £850, point your browser at www.stuff.tv/win and answer this simple question:

The Lenovo IdeaCentre B500 comes equipped with which of the following?

A A 15in VGA monitor and a floppy disk drive
B A 23in hi-def display and a Blu-ray drive
C A 6in monochrome screen and a tape drive

For more information about the Lenovo IdeaCentre B500, check out www.lenovo.com

lenovo
lenovo

WIN! A HI-DEF INFOCUS PROJECTOR

What's that? Your new TV's got a 50in screen? Yeah, it's nice – in a compact kind of way. I've got a 90-incher...

We're fans of big tellies here at *Stuff*, but if you want to enjoy a full-on cinematic experience in the comfort of your own home, you can't beat a hi-def projector. Even in a modest lounge, it's a cinch to install a screen 2m wide, which is the equivalent of an LCD or plasma a whopping 90in across. To make it even easier, we've teamed up with InFocus to offer *Stuff* readers the chance to win a superb SP8602 projector worth £3000!

This brilliant piece of kit uses a combination of DLP tech, a 1300 lumen light source and a six segment colour wheel to produce a native 1080p hi-def picture of stunning clarity, colour and vibrancy, with a contrast ratio of 30,000:1. Such quality is a match for many TVs, yet the SP8602 can project its picture onto a screen up to an incredible 7.5m wide.

With dual HDMI sockets the InFocus is also ready to deliver a highly immersive gaming experience – play *Modern Warfare 2* on a screen that fills your vision and you'll soon be ducking for cover. *Stuff*'s sister mag *What Hi-Fi? Sound And Vision* gave the InFocus a coveted five-star review, so you know it's the real deal. And unlike other projectors, you can order the InFocus SP8602 with a cover coloured to suit your home, including matt white, walnut, gloss black or primed for a custom hue.

How to enter:

For your chance to win a superb InFocus SP8602 hi-def projector worth £3000, log on to www.stuff.tv/win and answer this simple question:

Which of the following features sets the InFocus SP8602 apart from other projectors?

A A choice of detachable coloured covers
B An integrated popcorn dispenser
C A built-in beer fridge and wine-cooler

For more information about the InFocus SP8602, please visit www.infocus.com

InFocus

Bright Ideas Made Brilliant

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION
★★★★★

WIN! A TRIP TO BARBECUE HEAVEN

Mmmm, smell that sizzle: we've got a trip to the Jack Daniel's Invitational Barbecue Championships to be won

Every October, the Jack Daniel's Distillery hosts an invitational barbecue cook-off in its hometown of Lynchburg, Tennessee. Teams fly in from around the world to compete in the event, and we've got together with Jack Daniel's Barbecue Sauces to offer one lucky *Stuff* reader and their friend the chance to go and watch.

The prize is a fabulous six-day trip, from Wednesday 20 October to Monday 25 October, with three days of organised fun and feasting at the event, followed by free time to explore the state of Tennessee and its famous country and western culture. You'll have to be 21 years old to enter, though, sorry!

Besides getting to sample the world's best barbecued food, learning tips from the experts, and enjoying loads of live music and dancing, the winner and their friend will have VIP access. That means they can attend a private Jack Daniel's tasting session – a money-can't-buy experience – as well as a tour of the distillery and lunch at the famous Miss Mary Bobo's restaurant. Plus, they'll get exclusive tickets to "Barbecue Hill" on the night before the championships, usually only attended by competitors and judges.

Accommodation and breakfast throughout the trip will be in the Nashville Hilton, giving the winner and their guest a chance to soak up the atmosphere in the home of country music.

Sounds like an amazing trip, eh? To enter, all you have to do is answer one simple question about Jack Daniel's new Smokey Sweet Glaze (hint: if you're struggling, visit www.jackdanielsbbqsauces.com to find the answer).

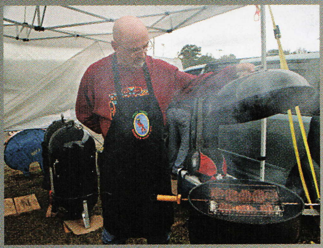
How to enter:

For your chance to win a fantastic trip for two people to the famous Jack Daniel's Invitational Barbecue Championships in Tennessee, USA, from 20–25 October, just travel to www.stuff.tv/win and answer this simple question:

What distinctively mellow ingredient helps give Jack Daniel's Smokey Sweet Glaze its unique taste?

A Ground-up Tennessee cowboy boots
B Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey
C A sprinkling of Tennessee farm dust

For more information about the full Jack Daniel's Barbecue Sauce range, just mosey on over to www.jackdanielsbbqsauces.com



JACK DANIEL'S QUALITY TENNESSEE STYLE BARBECUE SAUCE SMOOTH ORIGINAL MADE WITH AUTHENTIC JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY 260g e
JACK DANIEL'S QUALITY TENNESSEE STYLE BARBECUE GLAZE SMOKEY SWEET MADE WITH AUTHENTIC JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY 275g e
JACK DANIEL'S QUALITY TENNESSEE STYLE BARBECUE SAUCE HOT CHILLI MADE WITH AUTHENTIC JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY 260g e
JACK DANIEL'S QUALITY TENNESSEE STYLE BARBECUE SAUCE FULL FLAVOR SMOKEY MADE WITH AUTHENTIC JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY 260g e

MICRO SLRS THE NEX GENERATION

With the arrival of Sony's NEX-5, the mini DSLR comes of age

WHAT'S NEW?

First Olympus and Panasonic created Micro Four Thirds for DSLR skills in a smaller package, then Samsung brought its NX10 to the lens-swapping bash. Now Sony's NEX-5 is here, the party can begin.

WHAT WE TESTED...

Olympus PEN E-PL1 £550
The cheapest, most compact PEN yet makes a few compromises on the retro stylings that made the original such an icon, but adds a flash to the mix.

Panasonic Lumix G2 £600
Using the same Micro Four Thirds (MFT) system as the Olympus, the second-generation model in Panasonic's Lumix G series is packed with features.

Pentax K-x £430
The only true DSLR here packs an optical viewfinder and almost matches its "compact system" rivals for size. Is that enough to give it the edge?

Samsung NX10 £500
Samsung's own take on the concept has an array of manual controls to match a full DSLR, a full-size APS-C sensor and a beautiful AMOLED screen.

Sony NEX-5 £580
The smallest and most striking of them all, and yet the Sony features a full-size APS-C sensor, 1080i video recording and some special shooting skills.

LUMIX
HD
G2
AVCHD Lite
LUMIX
Ø49
0.25m/0.82ft

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

■ Lenses
When you buy one of these cameras you're also buying into a lens system, so make sure you pick a model with access to the sort of lenses you want to use.

■ Sensor size
Micro Four Thirds sensors are smaller than the APS-C sensors used by other cameras. In theory, larger sensors will collect more light for less image noise.

■ Autofocus speed
All these cameras have autofocus, of course, but the speed at which they work varies. Also look out for AF tracking, where the autofocus locks onto and follows a moving subject.

■ HD movie recording
A 24- or 30fps movie will have a filmic quality, while 50- or 60fps will give smoother results. Also bear in mind audio quality.

PENTAX
smc PENTAX-DAL 1:3.5-5.6 18-55mm AL
ø52mm
SAMSUNG
SAMSUNG ZOOM LENS
1:3.5-5.6 18-55mm OIS ø58
NX 10
MEGA PIXELS
OLYMPUS
MICRO
SONY

JARGON BUSTER

Aperture
A larger aperture gives a shorter depth of field with faster shutter speeds.

Depth of field
Short depth of field allows for sharp subjects and blurred-out backgrounds.

DSLR
Digital Single-Lens Reflex, the standard professional camera system. These "micro-SLRs" discard the mirror and prism sections to reduce size at the cost of an optical viewfinder.

Image stabilisation
Either in-body or in-lens, this tech counteracts blur from unsteady hands.

ISO
A measure of sensitivity to light. Detail is lost at higher ISO, more so with some cameras than others.

Olympus PEN E-PL1

£550 (w/14-42mm lens) | www.olympus.co.uk

A chance to live the Olympus PEN dream for less cash is the lure here. But the original digital PEN was based on exceptional build quality and desirability, some of which has been lost in the cost-cutting process. Annoyingly, so has the thumb wheel on the back that was used for swift tweaks to aperture and other settings.

However, there's much to like. There's a built-in flash and picture quality is great, with a huge range of ISO settings letting you balance noise with shutter speed nicely. Alternatively, flipping the camera into auto, a scene mode or an Art Filter delivers superb results in easy point-and-shoot fashion.

It's a touch more taxing to use than older PENs (and most others here), although hitting the Start/OK button brings up a menu allowing for reasonably speedy adjustments. As with previous PENs, autofocus can be slow and there's no AF tracking mode, so the E-PL1 isn't the ideal tool for snapping unpredictably moving subjects (think pets and kids).

In-body image stabilisation is a real bonus though, meaning that any lens you use, whether an official MFT lens or a different kind attached via an adapter, gets the advantage of anti-shake tech.

STUFF SAYS

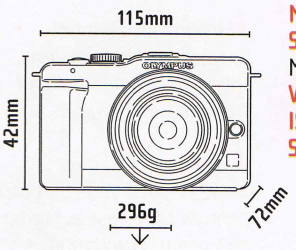
Not as covetable as previous PEN cameras but the smallest, most fun edition so far

★★★★☆

Flick the Mode dial to Art Filters and you can choose between six in-camera effects, including grainy B&W, pinhole and tilt-shift style "Diorama".

The screen is one of the least impressive here, on par with that of the Pentax K-x, but an electronic viewfinder (the VF-2, around £200) can be added to the hotshoe.

Hardware controls on the E-PL1 are fairly minimal – only the NEX-5 has fewer in this company. This leads to some fiddliness when trying to change settings.



TECH SPECS

Megapixels 12.3
Sensor type Micro Four Thirds
Video 720p@30fps
ISO range 100 to 3200
Screen 2.7in, 230,000 dots

< The world accordian to Olympus
The E-PL1's 14-42mm kit lens is a tad plasticky, but concertinas to a tiny cylinder, adding to the camera's compact appeal. An even tinier 17mm pancake lens is available.

Weighted in your favour >
The body is made of plastic rather than the metal of its classier E-P1 and E-P2 siblings. It detracts from the premium feel but it's more comfortable dangling from your neck.

Panasonic Lumix G2

Stuff TEST WINNER

£600 (w/14-42mm lens) | www.panasonic.co.uk

Impressively for a camera that apes a DSLR so well, the G2 has managed to dodge the ugly stick. Seasoned photographers will feel instantly at home with the various dials and buttons, which allow you to flip to your desired settings in a matter of moments.

It's not just for the pros, mind you. Hit the iAuto button and the camera's big brain kicks into life, smartly adjusting settings based on what it thinks you want to do. The touchscreen adds an extra veneer of usability, although crucially you're never forced into prodding it. You can move the focus point around with a finger, or simply tap the screen to focus at that spot and take a photo as soon as possible.

Speaking of autofocus, it's quick. Along with the Sony NEX-5, the G2 is the fastest here and, like the Sony, features AF tracking to keep a lock on moving subjects.

Despite the kit lens feeling fairly cheap and light, the G2 delivers fantastic shots with it bolted on. Noise doesn't start to become distracting until ISO 1600, and straight-from-camera JPEGs have a vibrant pop and bags of detail. And as it uses the MFT system, there's a pretty good range of alternative lenses available.

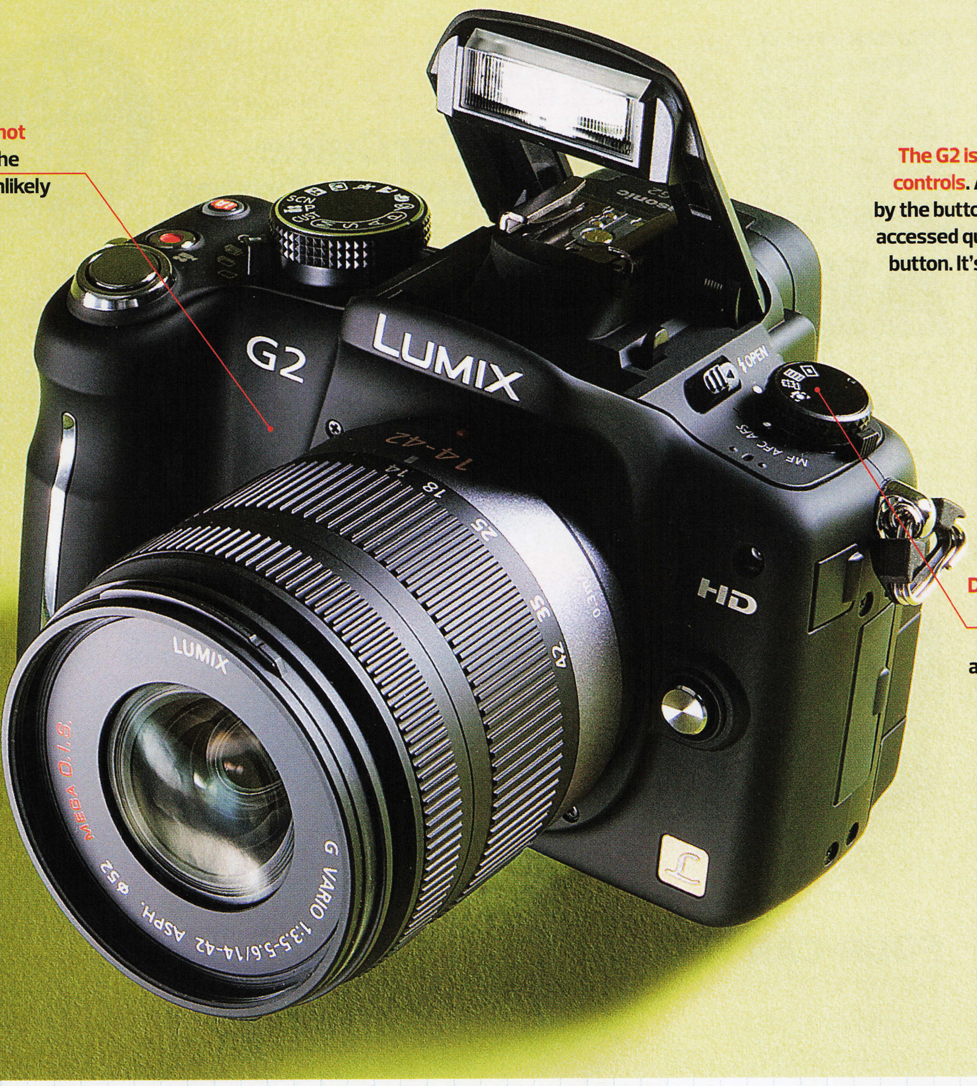
STUFF SAYS

Whether stepping up or downsizing, the G2 makes taking great photos a breeze

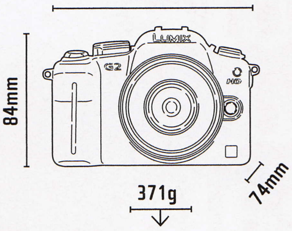
★★★★★

The rubberised finish is strokeably smooth but not slippery. Coupled with the chunky grip, the G2 is unlikely to fall from your grasp.

The G2 isn't short of hardware controls. Anything not covered by the buttons on the rear can be accessed quickly via the Q.Menu button. It's really user-friendly.



Dials on the top let you select shooting mode, drive mode and autofocus mode. They also let you flip between auto and manual focus in a jiffy.



TECH SPECS
Megapixels 12.1
Sensor type Micro Four Thirds
Video 720p@60fps
ISO range 100 to 6400
Screen Adjustable 3in, 460,000 dots

< Swing round and see me some time
The G2's screen is not only adjustable to almost any angle (narcissists rejoice!), it's also touch-sensitive, so you can stab a part of the screen to select a focus point.

View from the top >
The electronic viewfinder kicks into life automatically when you hover your eye in front of it, providing a clear, accurate image that's far superior to that of the NX10's.

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On sale Thursday, July 29

Pentax K-x

£430 (w/18-55mm lens) | www.pentax.co.uk

The K-x is a bit different to the others here: it's a proper DSLR, albeit a compact one. That means it has a mirror box and proper optical viewfinder for framing shots, although there's also live view and HD video capture, both available via the 2.7in screen.

There are other advantages too, including a big APS-C sensor and compatibility with a huge range of existing lenses, but the K-x is chunkier than the other models on test. It's not that far off the size of the Panasonic G2, but beside the super-slim Sony NEX-5 it looks like the Hulk. You won't be slipping one of these into your pocket unless your name is Coco and you work in a circus.

The live view mode is primitive next to its rivals', with live view autofocus being incredibly slow. Even autofocusing through the viewfinder feels very sluggish. That's a shame, because the K-x serves up impressive pictures and decent video.

The kit lens is a solid performer (when it focusses in time), noise is controlled well and a range of photo filters lets you turn out arty Lomo-style shots without fuss. On balance it's well beaten here, but that optical viewfinder could still sway the decision for some.

STUFF SAYS

A decent all-rounder, but the K-x feels like a bit of a relic next to the other models here

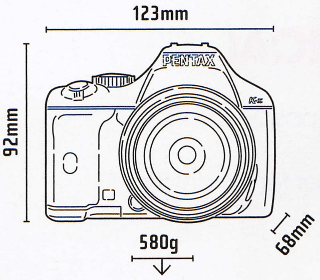
★★★☆☆

AUTO PICT
AV
PENTAX
K-x
PENTAX 18-55
35
45
55
smc PENTAX-DA L
smc PENTAX
ø52mm

It's certainly solid and sits comfortably in the hand, but the K-x is a big old fella compared to its svelte opponents.

The K-x runs on four AA batteries, which is a tad old-fashioned. It tore through them at a hell of a rate in our test, suggesting you'll need to invest in rechargeables anyway.

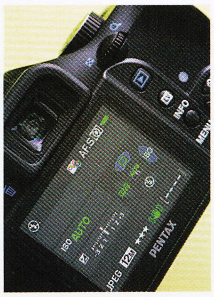
There's no shortage of lenses to use with the K-x. Its KA2 mount is fully compatible with all Pentax KAF3, KAF2 and KA lenses, and also K and S mount lenses with some restrictions.



TECH SPECS
Megapixels 12.4
Sensor type APS-C
Video 720p@24fps
ISO range 200 to 6400
Screen 2.7in, 230,000 dots

< See it like it is
The K-x is the only camera here with a proper through-the-lens optical viewfinder. Old-school snappers will appreciate the big, clear representation of their subject.

Rear view >
The screen is the worst in the test. In live view mode it's slow to update, a bit fuzzy and takes ages to autofocus – just as well that you have that optical viewfinder.



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Samsung NX10

£500 (w/18-55mm lens) | www.samsung.com/uk

This is all about shrinking the DSLR without compromising on control. With its APS-C sensor, the NX10 offers true DSLR-level photos from a compact body. The sensor is larger than the MFT models, and this is reflected in better light-capturing abilities and a shorter depth-of-field.

The camera body is solid and lovely to grip, despite its compact dimensions, and comes bristling with a huge range of buttons. Like the Panasonic, it's a design that should appeal to DSLR veterans, but there's also a capable auto mode if you'd rather not get too involved with manual settings.

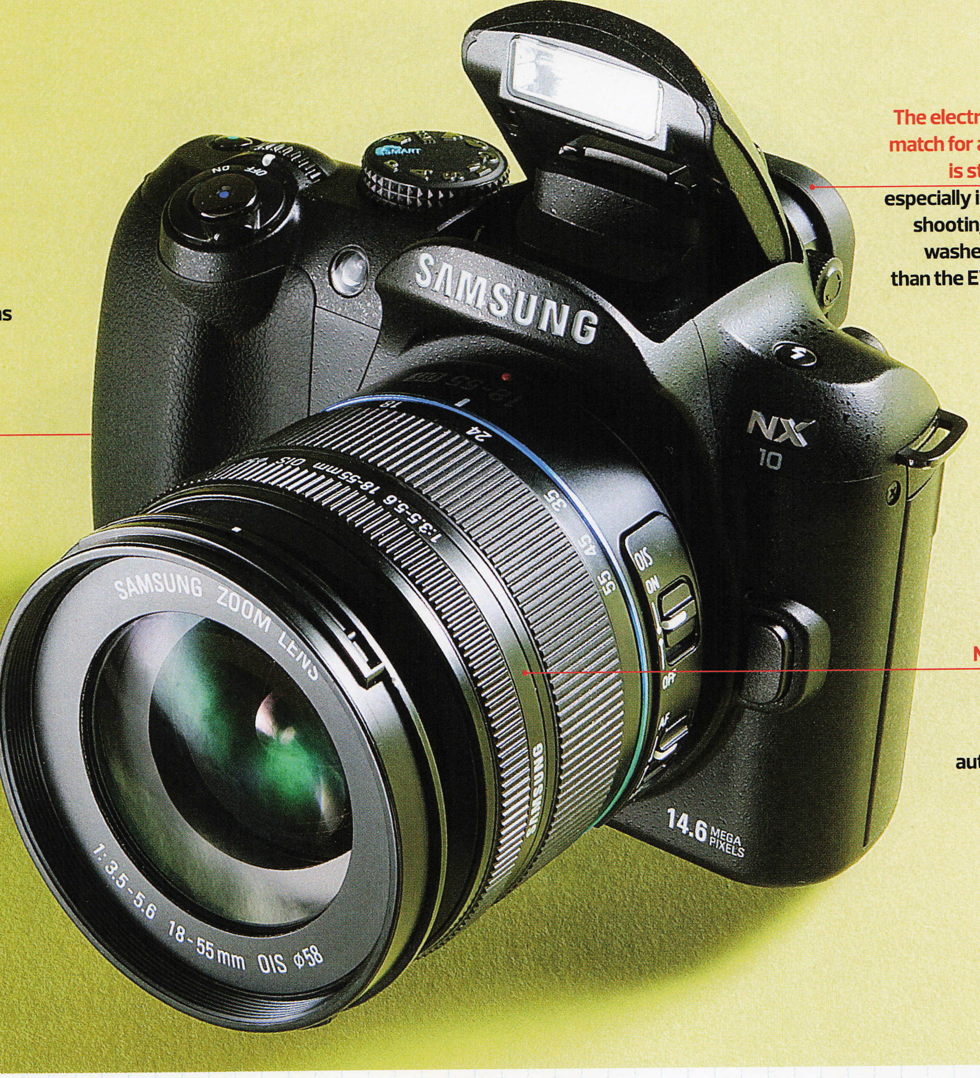
Autofocus is probably the NX10's biggest weakness. It's noticeably slower than the G2 and Sony NEX-5 to lock onto a subject, and really labours in dim conditions, even with the AF assist lamp. The K-x is slower in live view mode, but aside from that the NX10 is the tardiest focusser on test.

Photo and video quality is impressive though, matching the G2 and NEX-5, suggesting there could be better things in store for Samsung's NX mount. After all, this is the first compact interchangeable lens camera Samsung has ever made.

STUFF SAYS

A solid first effort from Sammy, but lethargic autofocus blots the NX10's copybook

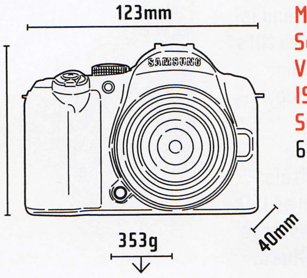
★★★★☆



The electronic viewfinder is no match for an optical variant but is still useful for framing, especially in sunlight. It displays shooting info too, but is very washed out with less detail than the EVF on the Panasonic.

The wide selection of buttons on the back means you're never more than a few presses from changing a setting. The Fn button acts like Panasonic's Q.Menu, opening up a list of criteria that can be altered speedily.

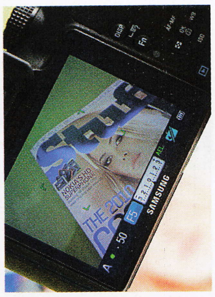
The NX10's kit lens gets joint honours with the NEX-5. It's less plasticky than most and features physical switches for image stabilisation and auto/manual focus modes.



TECH SPECS
Megapixels 14.6
Sensor type APS-C
Video 720p@30fps
ISO range 100 to 3200
Screen AMOLED 3in, 614,000 dots

< The three lens-ateers
There are three lenses available for the NX10: the 18-55mm kit lens, a 50-200mm telephoto and a 30mm f/2 pancake. A macro and 18-200mm superzoom should follow.

Whamo-LED >
The AMOLED screen is rapier-sharp and bright but the Sony and Panasonic cameras feature regular LCDs that are just as easy on the eye, and the Sony's is even crisper.



Sony NEX-5

£580 (w/18-55mm lens) | www.jessops.com

Easily the most stylish camera here, the NEX-5 is also the smallest. Inside a body the size of a compact there's an APS-C sensor, the same type used in a full DSLR. As with the Samsung NX10, this lets you achieve a smaller depth of field than with the equivalent lens on a Micro Four Thirds camera, which is especially handy for sharp subjects and blurred backgrounds.

Picture quality with both the 18-55mm and 16mm pancake lenses is excellent, with less noise than its rivals and an ISO range that extends to 12800.

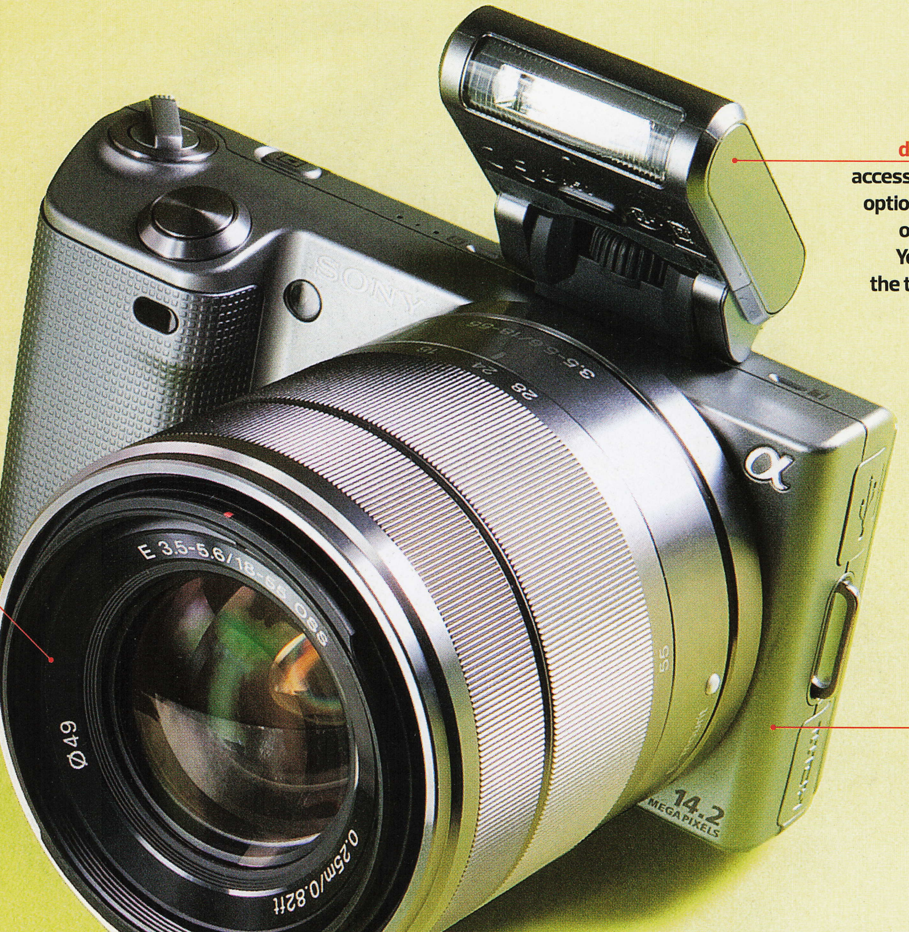
It's a clever clogs too, with a number of special shooting tricks including 3D (yes, really), Sweep Panorama, a seven-shot-per-second Burst mode and a Twilight mode that merges six rapid-fire images into one for handheld low-light snaps, assisted by in-camera image stabilisation. Hi-def video comes in the form of retina-pleasingly sharp 1080i footage.

The flipside of the hardware design is a shortage of knobs and dials that DSLR users might find frustrating. However, the interface is very well designed, so if you're not in the habit of working like a pro you shouldn't have any touble mastering the NEX-5's menus.

STUFF SAYS

The stripped-back ethos won't please all, but the NEX-5's shooting skills and image quality will

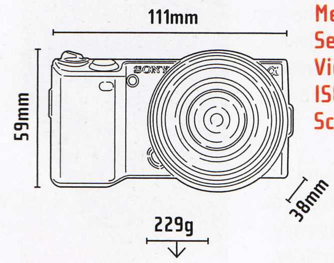
★★★★★



The bundled flash unit is detachable, freeing up the accessory port for use with the optional electronic viewfinder or high-spec microphone. You can only attach one of the three at any time though.

The NEX-5's E-mount has just three lenses at present. You can also use A-mount lenses (currently in manual focus only) through an optional Sony adapter for an extra £150.

The magnesium alloy body is the sturdiest and most attractive in the test. The lens and mount lock together with a sureness and solidity you don't find on the other models here.



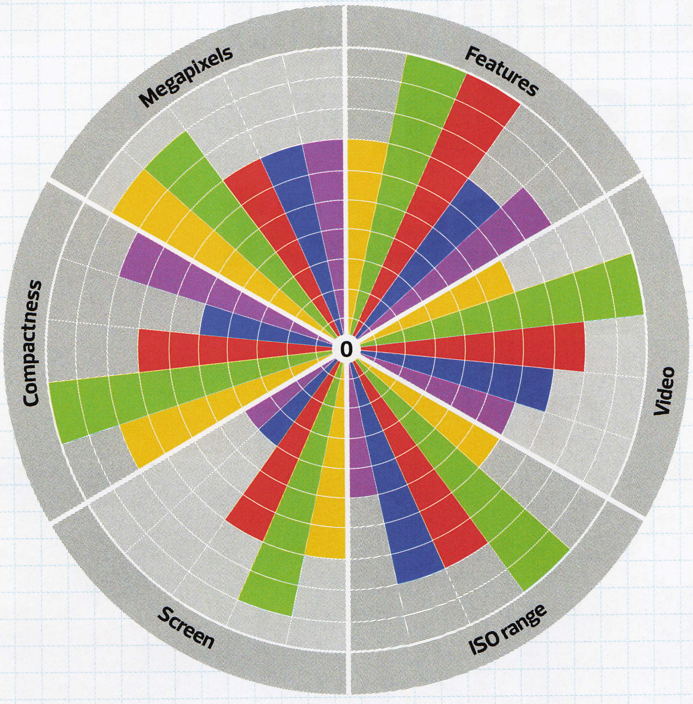
TECH SPECS
Megapixels 14.2
Sensor type APS-C
Video 1080i@50fps
ISO range 200 to 12800
Screen 3in, 920,000 dots

< Bright screen
The 3in screen is the sharpest here and is usable even in direct sunlight. It also tilts up and down, making it easier to frame shots from above your head or low down.

On the button >
The small number of hardware controls means that adjusting settings such as ISO, metering mode and focus type takes more time and effort than it does with others.

STUFF'S SUPERTEST SPECBURST™

If you must have an optical viewfinder, the **Pentax K-x** is a decent, relatively compact option but is beaten on all other counts here. The **Samsung NX10** is the most faithful miniaturisation of a DSLR, while the **Olympus E-PL1** is a fun, versatile halfway house. Most desirable of all is the compact, trick-laden **Sony NEX-5**, but the **Panasonic G2** wins out. It's no tiddler but knocks out top-notch pics with build and usability to match.



Stuff TEST WINNER

PANASONIC G2 ★★★★★
Pros Interface; clear, articulated touchscreen; great shots
Cons Kit lens feels cheap

SONY NEX-5 ★★★★★
Pros Tiny size; premium build; image quality; shooting modes
Cons More buttons would help

OLYMPUS PEN E-PL1 ★★★★☆
Pros Art Filters; image quality
Cons The most plasticky PEN yet; low-res screen

SAMSUNG NX10 ★★★★☆
Pros DSLR feel; interface; compact
Cons Autofocus needs to be faster; limited ISO range

PENTAX K-X ★★★☆☆
Pros Viewfinder; choice of lenses
Cons Sluggish autofocus; eats up batteries; the biggest here

THE WINNING TEAM

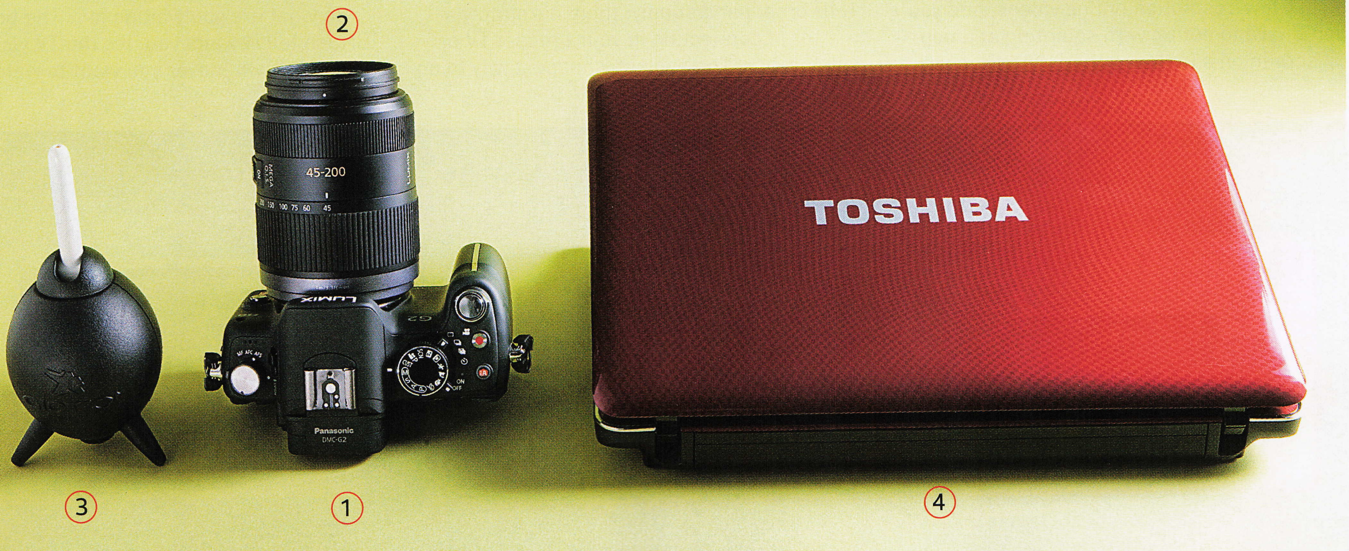
For the latest camera reviews, plus unboxings, check www.stuff.tv

1 Panasonic Lumix G2
£600 | www.panasonic.co.uk
Supremely usable no matter what your skill level, the G2 also serves up glorious stills and videos. The viewfinder and flexible touchscreen are brilliant bonuses.

2 Panasonic H-FS045200E 45-200mm lens
£255 | www.panasonic.co.uk
Extend your shooting possibilities with this 90-400mm 35mm equivalent, image-stabilised telephoto zoom lens.

3 Giottos Q.ball Air Blower
£10 | www.giottos-tripods.co.uk
De-dust your sensor and lenses with a blast of air from the Q.ball. It has a folding tip for blowing into tight spaces, with the added bonus of taking up less bag room.

4 Toshiba Satellite T110-12U
£440 | www.toshiba.co.uk
Take this 11.6in notebook on your photo safaris. Its 250GB hard disk can backup your pics and the screen, 3GB of RAM and 1.3GHz Celeron CPU are up to editing jobs.



[**Words** Sam Kieldsen **Pictures** Matthew Beedle **Illustrations** Alan Eldridge]

freesat

Enjoy catch-up TV from your sofa: it's easy with Freesat

Simply link your Freesat kit to your broadband router to get started!

Watch catch-up TV subscription free!

With so many channels of great TV to choose from, you're spoilt for choice with Freesat. But what if you forget to schedule a recording on your set-top-box, or you miss a show that all your friends are talking about the next day?

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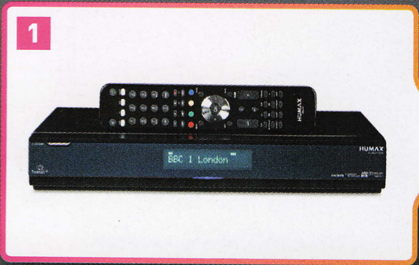
If that sounds good, the picture quality's even better. Although catch-up TV uses internet-based services, you needn't worry about blocky low-resolution online videos, and you don't have to put up with squinting at a pop-up screen on a laptop, either. With Freesat, you'll get a full-screen picture that looks just as sharp as regular broadcast images.

And the best bit is it's all subscription-free! All you'll need to get started is a minimum 1MB broadband supply: then, it's simply a matter of connecting in your Freesat TV or set-top-box. The easiest, cheapest way to do that is to use an Ethernet cable, but if you prefer a wireless solution, a HomePlug kit works well too (see below). Visit **www.freesat.co.uk** for more.

So what are you waiting for? The best of British telly awaits you. It's the TV you love to watch – whenever you want to watch it!

How to get catch-up TV with Freesat

1



All you need to get started is a Freesat TV or HD digital box

2

Connect to a 1MB broadband supply using Ethernet or this HomePlug kit

3

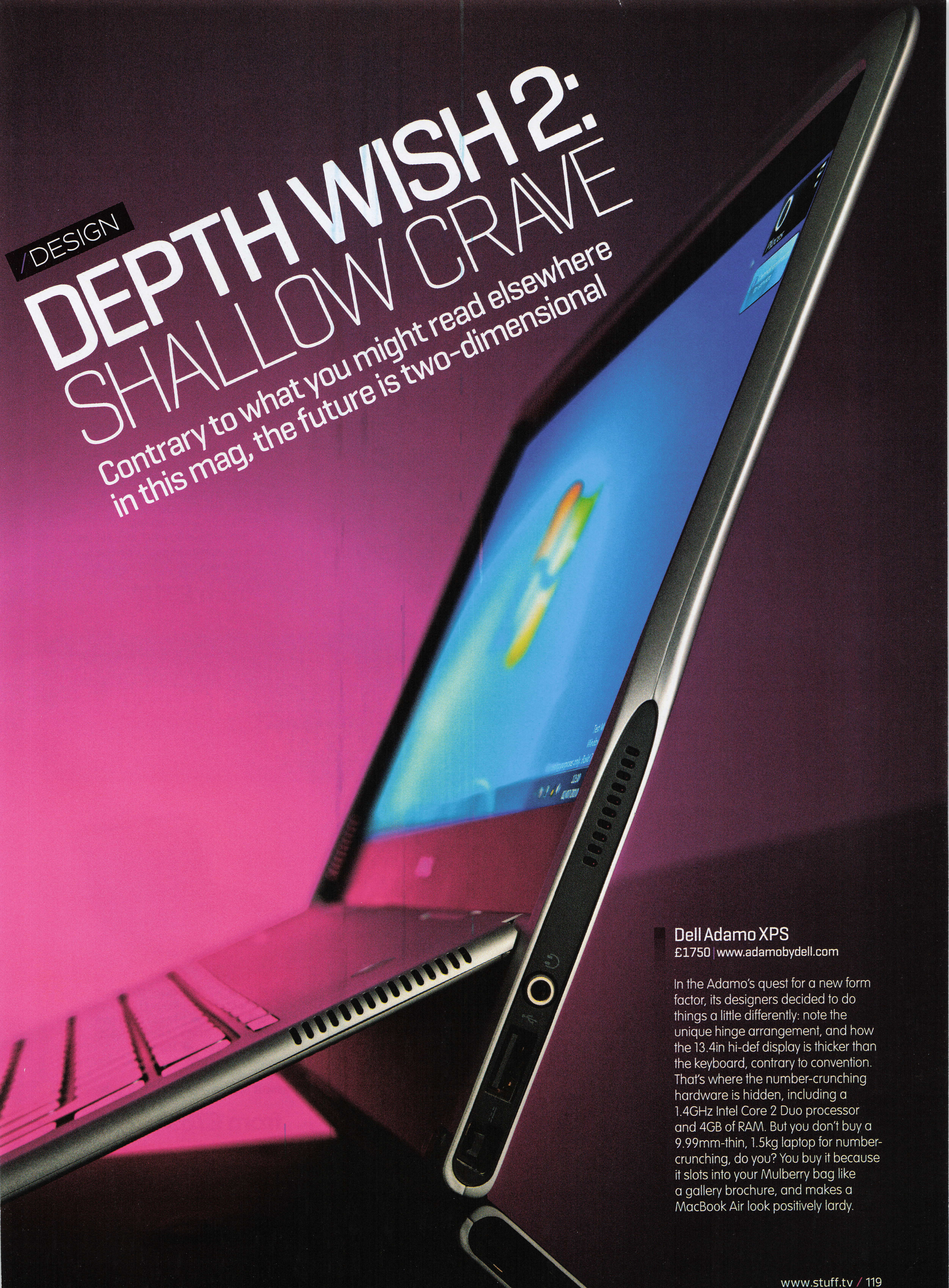
Press the red button on your remote and you're done! Free catch-up TV awaits

For more info call 0845 313 0054 or visit www.freesat.co.uk

/DESIGN

DEPTH WISH 2: SHALLOW CRAVE

Contrary to what you might read elsewhere in this mag, the future is two-dimensional



Dell Adamo XPS
£1750 | www.adamobydell.com

In the Adamo's quest for a new form factor, its designers decided to do things a little differently: note the unique hinge arrangement, and how the 13.4in hi-def display is thicker than the keyboard, contrary to convention. That's where the number-crunching hardware is hidden, including a 1.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor and 4GB of RAM. But you don't buy a 9.99mm-thin, 1.5kg laptop for number-crunching, do you? You buy it because it slots into your Mulberry bag like a gallery brochure, and makes a MacBook Air look positively lardy.

PC Specialist recommends Windows 7™ Home Premium

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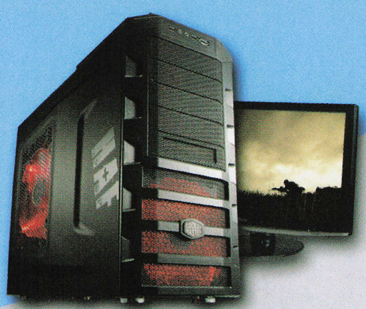

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PC Pro
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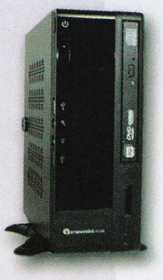

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Camcorders are under attack: hi-def-shooting cameras and jumped-up mobiles are encroaching on their territory. In response, they're getting smarter and smaller. Take this sleek little Camileo: it captures crisp 1080p hi-def footage, has 60fps sports and slo-mo modes, can take 5MP stills and packs a bright 3in fold-out screen that's ideal for shooting overhead videos at gigs. Yet it weighs a paltry 120g and takes up no more pocket space than a student's wallet. It's also proof that slimline gadgets needn't cost a fortune.

LG 15EL9500 OLED

£1800 | www.lg.com/uk

Behold, the world's largest commercially available OLED TV. All 15in of it. Yep, that is a touch small in a world of 100in LCDs, but this portable's display is only 3mm deep, so the viewing experience is akin to watching a magical moving image printed onto a sliver of folded aluminium. The OLED tech also produces a silky-smooth picture of such razor-sharpness, with true blacks and whites, that it exceeds the quality of most plasmas and trounces any comparable LCD. So while it may be small, it packs a serious punch. It deserves respect.

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Definitive Technology Mythos XTR-50

£800 each | www.pulsemarketing.com

Thin speakers usually produce equally skinny sound, lacking in depth, range and clarity, especially at high volumes. Definitive Technology's Mythos XTR-50 home cinema speakers are different: each unit is just 38mm deep, yet houses one 25mm dome tweeter and no less than six 90mm anodised aluminium dome drivers (two mid-range units, pressure-coupled to a quartet of bass radiators), collectively rated to 100W. So: thin, but with a usefully heavyweight sound. Just don't prod the domes, OK?

Samsung C9000

£7000 | www.samsung.com/uk

Samsung's TVs have been on an oxygen diet for years, but the C9000 takes thin to another level: it's just 7.98mm deep – barely thicker than this copy of *Stuff*. That's been achieved by cramming most of the tech, including 3D processing and on-the-fly 2D-to-3D conversion, into the base, along with the speakers. Should you choose to wall-mount it, the base detaches and fixes to the panel's rear, creating an ensemble that's still only 33.9mm deep. The titanium-coloured aluminium surround isn't just aesthetic, either – it helps stop the panel flexing. In a gentle breeze, presumably.

[**Words** Nic Shaw **Pictures** Pete Gardner]

SLIM PICKINGS

32nm

The width of the internal connections (in nanometers) of Intel's Core i7 processors. That's a width of roughly 320 atoms. Not that we've counted.

64cm

The breadth of Parliament Street in Exeter, UK, at its narrowest point. Although 50m long, it's still only 1.22m at its widest point.

5.9mm

The thickness of the world's thinnest mobile, the Samsung Ultra Edition 5.9, launched in 2007. It was a decent phone – try eBay if you fancy one.

0.01s

The narrowest ever winning margin in Formula 1, by which Peter Gethin beat Ronnie Peterson in the 1971 Italian Grand Prix.

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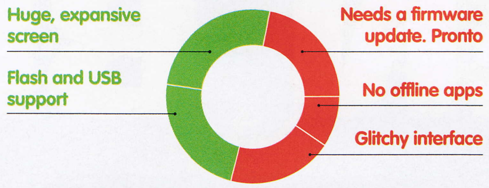
Cheaper than an iPad, with a bigger screen, Flash support and USB, can the JooJoo catch the worm in the new dawn of tablet computing? Paddy Smith investigates...

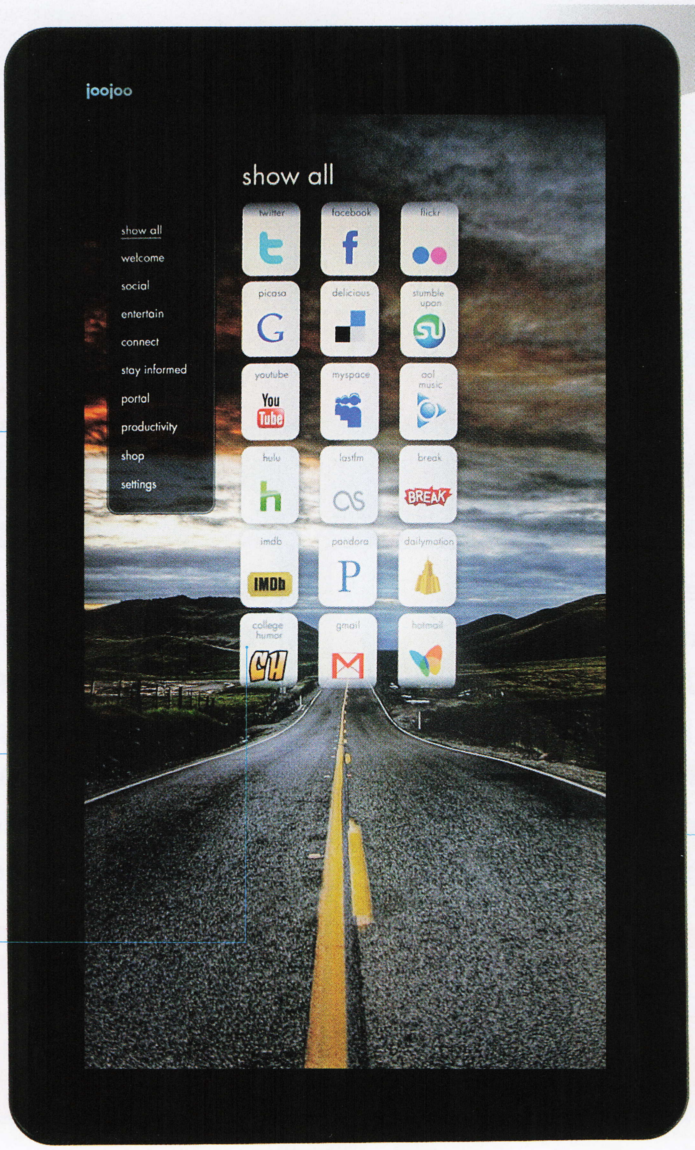
STUFF'S **DONUT OF TRUTH**™ JOOJOO



What this picture doesn't tell you is how big the JooJoo is. It's 32.5cm high, so significantly taller than a sheet of A4, almost as wide and it weighs over a kilo. Not the most portable gadget then, so perhaps it doesn't matter that **the antics of this super-sized tablet are reliant on Wi-Fi**. The Linux-based OS revolves around web browsing and online apps. No Wi-Fi? No action.

Brightness of the 12in, hi-def capacitive touchscreen is adjusted with an ambient light sensor and can be boosted manually at the cost of some backlight flare at the sides. Sadly, **response is erratic, despite a perfectly respectable 1.6GHz Atom CPU**, Nvidia ION graphics accelerator and 4GB SSD. Hopefully this can be fixed with a firmware upgrade.

At first glance the homescreen looks like a regular desktop, but **the icons are arranged in a scrolling grid** – central in portrait mode, on the left in landscape. Left-handers may love it, but it'll seem an odd layout for many. Having to scroll around with so much free space going to waste defies common sense, and the scrolling is jerky in any case.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show all
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entertain
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youtube
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aol music
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lastfm
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hotmail

There's only one button on the JooJoo (on/off). Everything else is handled with the touchscreen, which of course includes text input. You get the **choice of two virtual keyboards: a large, two-handed version and a smaller alternative** that can be jabbed with one hand.

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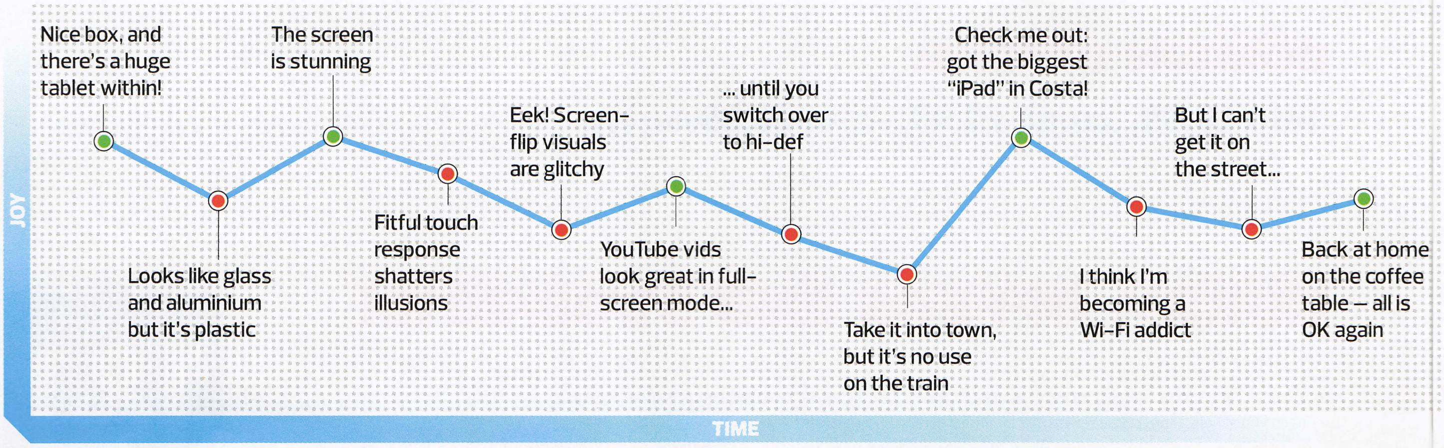
tab
enter

Fusion Garage claims the JooJoo has "the largest app store in the world", but it's just bragging about having Flash support and the ability to "multitask" via tabbed browsing. **Full-screen browsing can be fantastic on the JooJoo**, especially for web apps such as Google Docs, although web pages don't quite fit in portrait mode and multi-touch isn't fully supported: there's two-finger scrolling but no pinch-to-zoom.

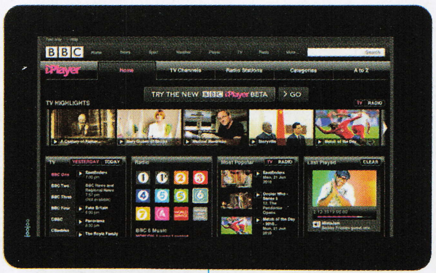
STUFF'S EMOTOGRAPH A DAY WITH THE JOOJOO



The JooJoo as...

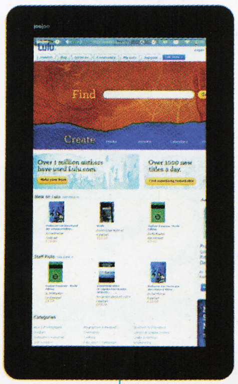
...a web browser

The JooJoo's marketing blurb says it should get you online in nine seconds, but it took us half a minute to boot up and open Twitter. Still, once you do get on the web the experience is fairly impressive, with full Flash support, but it drops a clanger by cropping the edge off most web pages. Flipping to landscape gives you the full width at the expense of some depth.



...a media player

With no offline media player you'll turn to streaming sites for music and video. That's not entirely a bad thing, though, as there's plenty of quality content out there for free. Sadly, the JooJoo struggled to render HD streams from iPlayer and audio playback is muddy. The silver lining: Fusion Garage tells us video playback from USB is coming.



...an ebook reader

There's no ebook store and no way to download titles for later reading, but that doesn't mean you can't use the JooJoo as a reader. We downloaded James Henry's *The Cabinet of Curiosities* from Lulu directly into a browser-based PDF reader. It's easy enough to read on the display, but this method is far too temporary to use for serious reading.

...a laptop replacement

There's a lot that needs fixing before the JooJoo can go up against even a netbook, but it has decent hardware and runs a Linux build, so there's massive potential. Sort out the interface glitches, let users install the likes of VLC, OpenOffice.org and Banshee, allow for external drive management via USB, and there's no reason why it can't be an option.

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Apple iPad 16GB Wi-Fi

£430 | www.apple.com/uk

Smaller screen, no Flash, no USB... But it's neater, lighter and has the world's most intuitive touchscreen interface. ★★★★★

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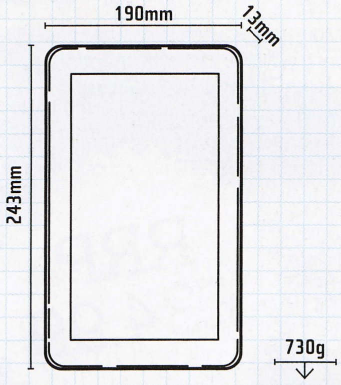
£590 | www.nokia.com

HDMI, 12-hour battery, 3G... and now a price drop has made Nokia's Atom-powered Windows netbook even more attractive. ★★★★☆

TECH SPECS: JOOJOO



Display 12.1in, 1366x768 capacitive touchscreen
CPU Intel Atom 1.6GHz
Graphics Nvidia ION
Storage 4GB SSD
Connectivity 3.5mm headphone socket, Bluetooth 2.1, USB, Wi-Fi (b/g/n)
OS Custom Linux
Battery 5hrs

STUFF SAYS ★★☆☆☆

The JooJoo has great potential but there are far too many niggles to make it a truly useful tablet. Best avoided for now

NOW ADD THESE

JooJoo Stand

£30 | thejoojoo.com

The only official Fusion Garage accessory is this stand to hold your tablet in place while you drum out a blog or two on a keyboard or watch a few videos.

Microsoft Arc Keyboard

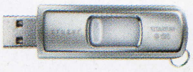
£50 | www.microsoft.com

Since the JooJoo is already quite bulky, save space in your bag by packing Microsoft's compact Arc keyboard. The tiny transceiver docks away in the base.

SanDisk Ultra Cruzer Titanium 8GB

£30 | uk.sandisk.com

Once Fusion Garage sorts out its promised video playback from USB, you'll need a durable companion such as the Cruzer Titanium. There's a 16GB stick on the way too.



Knomo Slim (13in)

£50 | www.knomobags.com/uk

There's no official sleeve for the JooJoo, and it won't fit in anything designed for the iPad, but you can protect that screen with one of Knomo's padded lappie bags.

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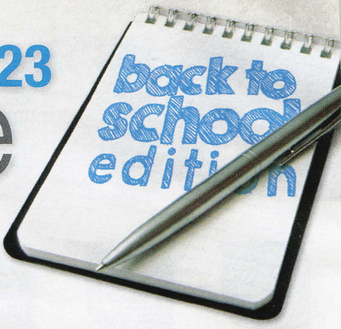

It's Back to School time already and this season we've got an even better choice of computing hardware and peripherals to tempt you with!

Mobile computing comes in a variety of shapes and sizes with entry level netbooks great value for viewing content on the move, and the more advanced ultra thins and notebooks being ideal for content creation with long lasting performance thanks to battery friendly operating systems and clever processing technology.

Home computing has become even easier with highly specified desktops and superb quality displays; the latest innovation is touch screen all-in-one computers with chic design and performance to match.

Many of the technologies need to be seen to be believed and our cover star, the Asus U Series Bamboo, features the new NVIDIA Optimus technology which greatly enhances graphic performance without comprising battery life (see below). The latest Intel Core i Processors offer Smart Performance and make multi-tasking a breeze. Ask for a demo in store and we'll show you how technology really can enhance yo digital lifestyle.

We pride ourselves on offering expert impartial advic and our friendly knowledgeable staff are on hand to help; whether it's a PC or Mac, for business or pleasure, we'll help you find the best value solution to meet your needs. We look forward to seeing you.

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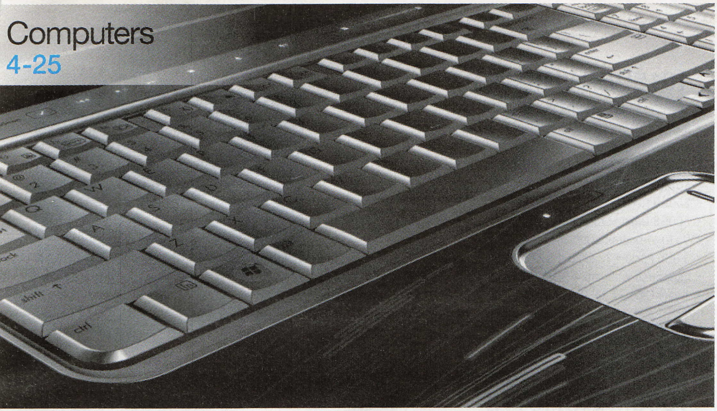
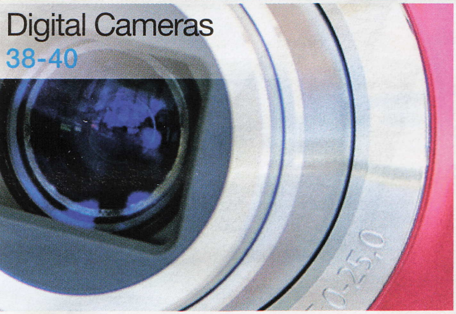
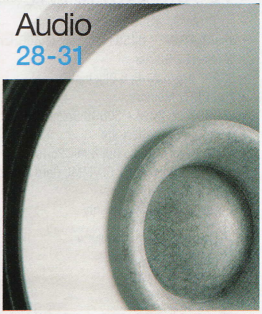
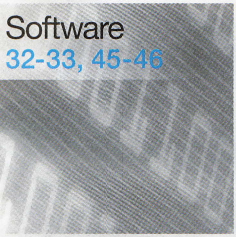
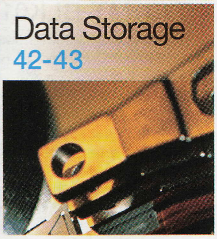








Accessories
22-44



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intel Atom inside

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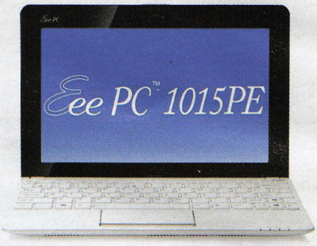

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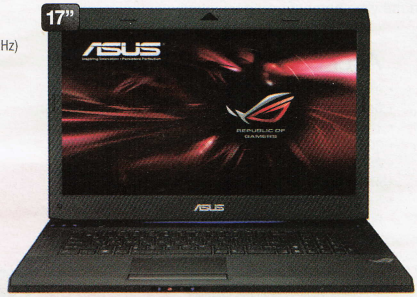

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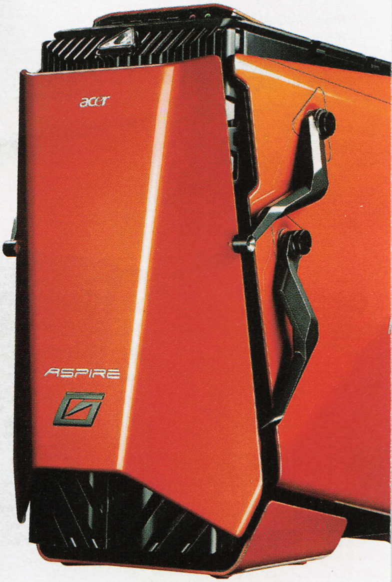

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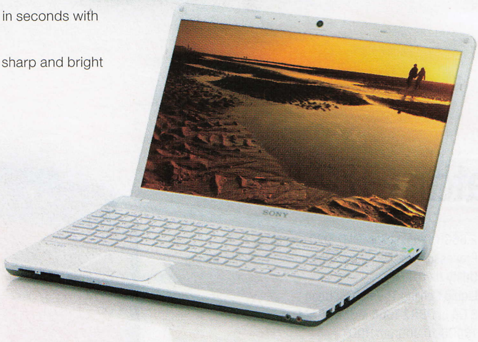

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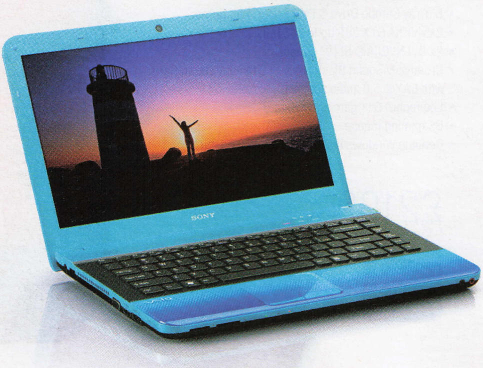
£509 AVAILABLE IN: ○
SON14266



EA1S1E

- Intel Core i3-330M Processor
- 4GB RAM
- 500GB Hard Disk Drive
- 14" LCD VAIO Display
- DVD Super Multi Drive Dual Layer
- Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium (64-bit)

£529 AVAILABLE IN: ● ○ ●
SON14263/4/5

EA1Z1E

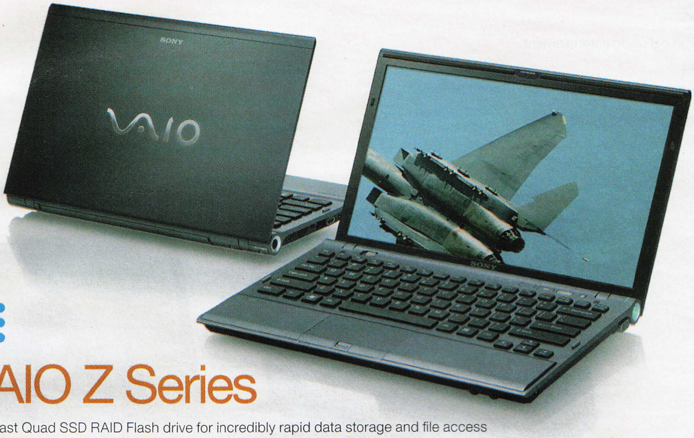
as above, but with:

- Blu-ray Combo Drive

£799 AVAILABLE IN: ●
SON14262

LTRAMOBILE

VAIO



AIO Z Series

tra fast Quad SSD RAID Flash drive for incredibly rapid data storage and file access

dvanced Dynamic Hybrid Graphics for easy switching between performance nd battery life

ay online wherever you go with VAIO everywair 3G mobile broadband or WiMax

acklit keyboard for even the darkest conditions

Z12M9E

- Intel® Core™ i5-520M Processor
- 4GB RAM
- 128GB Hard Disk Drive
- 13.1'' LCD VAIO Display
- DVD±RW/±R DL/RAM optical drive
- NVIDIA® GeForce® GT 330M GPU + Intel® HD Graphics
- Genuine Windows® 7 Professional (64bit)

£1899 AVAILABLE IN: ● ✓

SON14253

Z12V9E

as above, but with:

- Intel® Core™ i7-620M Processor
- 6GB RAM

£2199 AVAILABLE IN: ● ✓

SON14254

AIO Y Series

ork and play all day on the move with
 to 9 hours battery life

asy to carry with slim Magnesium Alloy
yling and low weight of around 1.8kg

mply touch the VAIO ASSIST button
r VAIO Care

Y21S1E

- Intel® Pentium® Processor U5400
- 4GB RAM
- 320GB Hard Disk Drive
- 13.3'' LCD VAIO Display
- Intel® HD Graphics
- Genuine Windows® 7 Home Premium (64bit)

£699 AVAILABLE IN: ● ✓ WEB

SON14267/8/9

VAIO Gate

Fast and easy access to favourite multimedia programs and entertainment. This gateway is always there as a visually attractive bar at the top of your desktop and keeps track of your most popular programs and media.

Instant IT help

Just press the new ASSIST button to access VAIOCare, and in a few clicks, you'll be able to recover, restore, diagnose or troubleshoot your VAIO.

Be online in seconds

With the new VAIO WEB button, it's quicker and easier than ever to catch up with your emails or browse the web. Just press and you bypass booting up to get online instantly.

SONY
make.believe

HIGH PERFORMANC

VAIO F Series

Full HD VAIO Display with Blu-ray for intense high definition entertainment

Amazing HD experience with Motion Reality HD

Enjoy music and movies in cinema-style surround sound with Dolby® Home Theatre

Full size numeric keypad

F12S1E

- Intel® Core™ i7-740QM Processor
- 6GB RAM
- 500GB Hard Disk Drive
- 16.4" LCD VAIO Display
- Blu-ray Disc™ ROM Drive with DVD SuperMulti optical Drive
- NVIDIA® GeForce® GT 330M GPU
- Genuine Windows® 7 Home Premium (64bit)
- Blu-ray Writer

£1299 AVAILABLE IN: ●

SON14258

F12Z1E

as above, but with:

- 8GB RAM
- Blu-ray Disc™ Writer with DVD SuperMulti optical Drive

£1599 AVAILABLE IN: ●

SON14257

SONY
VAIO
SONY

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VAIO L Series

Enjoy a new family entertainment experience with multi-touch screen

Slim and stylish all-in-one design fits in any room

Watch Full HD entertainment on a sharp and bright Full HD VAIO Display screen

Revolutionary Media Gallery learns what you like for a truly personal experience

L13M1E

- Intel® Core™2 Duo Processor E7500
- 4 GB RAM
- 1000GB Hard Disc Drive
- 24" multi-touch VAIO Display
- DVD SuperMulti optical Drive
- NVIDIA® GeForce® GT 330M GPU
- Genuine Windows® 7 Home Premium (64bit)

£1199 AVAILABLE IN: ●

SON11200

TOUCH SCREEN

VAIO
2009.10.23 (Fri) 3.30 p.m.
SONY

L13S1E

as above, but with:

- Intel® Core™2 Duo Processor E8400
- 8GB RAM
- Blu-ray Disc™ Writer with DVD SuperMulti optical Drive
- TV - DVB Tuner

£1499 AVAILABLE IN: ●

SON11201

N150

- 1.66GHz Intel ATOM N270 Processor
- Genuine Windows 7 Starter
- 10.1" WSVGA Non Gloss Screen
- 1GB SDRAM Memory
- 160GB SATA Hard Disk
- 802.11b.g/n Wireless LAN
- Bluetooth
- Normal sized Ergonomic Keyboard
- 3 in 1 Card Reader, Integrated Webcam
- Weighs just 1.25kg

£279
SAM14641/2/3/4

AVAILABLE IN: ⚫ ⚪ 🔵 🟡

N210

- 1.66GHz Intel ATOM N450 Processor
- Genuine Windows 7 Starter
- 10.1" LED Backlit Bright Screen
- 1GB SDRAM Memory
- 250GB SATA Hard Disk
- 802.11b.g/n Wireless LAN
- Up to +11 hours Battery Life
- 3 in 1 Card Reader, Integrated Webcam
- Weighs just 1.28kg

£299
SAM14645/6

AVAILABLE IN: ⚫ ⚪

N220

- 1.66GHz Intel ATOM N450 Processor
- Genuine Windows 7 Starter
- 10.1" WSVGA SuperBright Screen
- 1GB SDRAM Memory
- 250GB SATA Hard Disk
- 802.11b.g/n Wireless LAN
- Up to +10 hours Battery Life
- 3 in 1 Card Reader, 1.3MP Webcam
- 2.1 Speakers
- Weighs just 1.2kg

£329
SAM14647/8

AVAILABLE IN: 🔴 🟢

N230

- 1.66GHz Intel ATOM N450 Processor
- Genuine Windows 7 Starter
- 10.1" WSVGA SuperBright Screen
- 1GB SDRAM Memory
- 250GB SATA Hard Disk
- 802.11b.g/n Wireless LAN + Bluetooth
- Up to +14 hours Battery Life
- 3 in 1 Card Reader, 1.3MP Webcam
- 2.1 Speakers
- Weighs just 1.1kg

£349
SAM146149

Samsung N Series

Unrivalled design and a host of advanced features put the Samsung N-Series mini netbooks in a class of their own. Choose from a range of innovative and stylish models that'll have you looking good wherever you go.

First we have the Samsung N150, a great value netbook that comes in a choice of five colours. The N150 also boasts a Bluetooth connection and an impressive battery life of up to 9 hours, so you can easily keep surfing for longer.

Next in the range we give you the Samsung N210 Netbook that can deliver up to an incredible 11 hours battery life at a weight of only 1.2kg.

Also in the range we give you the unique Samsung N220 Netbook which features a 10.1" screen, red or green gloss finish and 2.1 speakers.

Finally we have the Samsung N230, a premium netbook that comes in a glossy black finish and features Bluetooth, an amazing battery life of up to 9 hours and weighs only 1.1Kg, making it the lightest netbook in it's class.

Samsung R Series

The R Series is inspired by technology that is user friendly and ideal for the whole family. Packed into a consistently sleek and slim design, these mobile computers are both stylish and reliable. The R series has a unique sleek and lightweight chassis which is usually found in the higher spec machines, giving you ultimate lightning powered graphics, producing the smoothest video playback and vibrant visual experience available, giving you all round performance.

17.3"
15.6"
SAMSUNG

15.6"
SAMSUNG

17.3"
SAMSUNG

R530

- Intel Dual Core T4400 Processor 2.2GHz
- Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium
- 15.6" LED HD+ Display
- 2GB RAM Memory
- 320GB SATA Hard Disk
- 802.11 b/g/n Wireless LAN
- DVD Super Multi Dual Layer
- Intel GMA X4500M DVMT Graphics
- HDMI, 3 in 1 Card Reader, Webcam
- Weight 2.50kg

£429
SAM14636

AVAILABLE IN: ●

R730

- Intel Dual Core T4400 Processor 2.2GH
- Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium
- 17.3" LED HD+ Display
- 3GB RAM Memory
- 320GB SATA HDD
- DVD Super-Multi Dual Layer
- Intel GMA HD Graphics
- 802.11 b/g/n WLAN
- HDMI, 3 in 1 Reader, Integrated Webca
- Weight 2.84Kg

£499
SAM14638

AVAILABLE IN: ●

R540

- Intel Core i3-350M Processor 2.26GHz
- Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium
- 15.6" LED HD Display
- 4GB RAM Memory
- 500GB SATA HDD
- DVD Super-Multi Dual Layer
- Intel GMA HD Graphics
- 802.11 b/g/n WLAN
- HDMI, 3 in 1 Reader, Integrated Webcam
- Weight 2.5Kg

£599
SAM14635

AVAILABLE IN: ●

R590

- Intel Core i5-540M Processor 2.4GHz
- Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium
- 17.3" LED HD+ Display
- 4GB RAM Memory
- 640GB SATA HDD
- Blu-ray Combo Drive
- NVIDIA GT330M Graphics
- 802.11 b/g/n WLAN + Bluetooth 3.0
- HDMI, 3 in 1 Reader, Integrated Webca
- Weight 2.6Kg

£899
SAM14634

AVAILABLE IN: ●

Samsung All-in-one Series

This all-in-one U300 desktop PC will grace your home with its looks, as well as fit in seamlessly with your family life. To enhance the viewing experience, the U300 also sports a generous 20-inch touchscreen display, with LED backlighting and thanks to a slot-loading DVD Rewriter drive, entertainment is never far away, so you'll witness Blockbuster movies, photos, internet surfing and more in pristine detail on its Full HD screen.

U300

- Intel Core i3-350M Processor 2.26GHz
- Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium
- 20" Touchscreen HD+ Display
- 4GB RAM Memory
- 500GB SATA HDD
- DVD Super-Multi Dual Layer
- NVIDIA GF310M Graphics (512Mb)
- 802.11 b/g/n WLAN
- HDMI, 3 in 1 Reader, Integrated Webcam
- Wireless Keyboard & Mouse

£799
SAM11001

Samsung Q Series

For slimline sophistication and blistering performance nothing can match the Samsung Q Series Notebook. Even though each model is thinner than most modern smart phones and digital cameras, they still boast the power of the latest Intel Core i3 Processors and Geniune Windows 7 Home Premium. The Q Series also packed with user-friendly features, including a super slim-line (9.5mm) Optical Disk Drive (ODD), island keyboard with a comfortable 19mm key pitch, USB and HDMI ports, and 3-in-1 card reader, for maximum connectivity and performance on the go.

SAMSUNG
SAMSUNG
Q330
SAMSUNG

Q330

ntel Core 2 Duo i3-350M Processor 2.26GHz
Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium
3.3" Gloss LED HD SuperBright Display
GB Memory
20GB SATA Hard Disk
VD Super-Multi Dual Layer
02.11 b/g/n WLAN & Bluetooth
ntel GMA HD Graphics
HDMI, 3 in 1 Reader, Integrated Webcam
Jp to 5 hours Battery Life
Veight 1.96kg

£599
SAM14631

Q430

- Intel Core 2 Duo i3-350M Processor 2.26GHz
- Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium
- 14" Gloss LED HD SuperBright Display
- 3GB Memory
- 320GB SATA Hard Disk
- DVD Super-Multi Dual Layer
- 802.11 b/g/n WLAN & Bluetooth
- NVIDIA GF 310M Graphics (512Mb)
- HDMI, 3 in 1 Reader, Integrated Webcam
- Up to 7 hours Battery Life
- Weight 2.05kg

£699
SAM14632

Q530

- Intel Core 2 Duo i3-350M Processor 2.26GHz
- Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium
- 15" Gloss LED HD SuperBright Display
- 4GB Memory
- 500GB SATA Hard Disk
- DVD Super-Multi Dual Layer
- 802.11 b/g/n WLAN & Bluetooth
- NVIDIA GT 330M Graphics (1Gb)
- HDMI, 3 in 1 Reader, Integrated Webcam
- Up to 5 hours Battery Life
- Weight 2.33kg

£799
SAM14633

Wind Series

The MSI Wind series is a stunning mini-laptop that is ideal for carrying around no matter when or where you are. You'll find Windows 7 already loaded and ready for use, with acres of hard drive space, so you don't need to worry about running out of storage space.
Powered by the latest low power consumption processors, the battery life and performance of the MSI Wind is designed for a busy life on the move.

(intel) Atom™ inside™

Wind U135

- Intel® Atom™ Processor N450 1.66GHz
- Windows 7 Starter
- 1GB RAM
- 250GB HDD
- 10" WSVGA Screen Display
- Chiclet Keyboard
- 1.3MP Webcam
- 802.11b / g / n Wireless Lan
- 6 Cell Battery
- Weight 1.4Kg

£279.99

MSI14017

AVAILABLE IN:

●

Wind U160 (as right)

- Intel® Atom™ Processor N450 1.66GHz
- Windows 7 Starter
- 1GB RAM
- 250GB HDD
- 10" WSVGA Screen Display
- Chiclet Keyboard
- 1.3MP Webcam
- 802.11b / g / n Wireless Lan
- 6 Cell Battery
- Weight 1.2Kg

£329.99

MSI14018/9

AVAILABLE IN:

● ●

10"
15hrs
free
Protective
Sleeve
msi

All-In-One Series

AE2220 Hi-Fi

- Intel® Core™ 2 Duo Processor T6600 2.2GHz
- 4GB DDR3 RAM
- 21.5" WSXGA (1920x1080) Touchscreen
- 640GB SATA HDD 5400rpm
- NVIDIA Geforce 9300 Video Card
- Blu-ray Drive
- Windows 7 Home Premium
- Built-In TV Tuner
- 802.11b / g / n Wireless Lan
- 2MP built-in Webcam
- HDMI Input • 6 x USB Ports

£799

MSI11001

MSI keeps the innovative and chic style alive with the Wind Top AE2220 Hi-Fi. This sleek multi-touch all-in-one computer is the first to be tailored for the digital home lifestyle. The Wind Top AE2220 Hi-Fi comes with a 21.5" Full HD widescreen display. The intuitive Multi-Touchscreen provides a natural and enjoyable user experience.

AE2400

as above, but with:

- Intel® Pentium® Processor E5400 2.7GHz
- 23.6" (1920x1080) Touchscreen
- 1TB SATA HDD
- ATI Radeon® HD5730 Video Card

£949

MSI11002

TOUCH SCREEN

msi 2 Years Warranty http://www.msi.com

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For more information about the Intel processor feature rating, please refer to www.intel.com/go/rating.'

msi

Gaming Series

GX660

- Intel® Core™ i7-720QM Processor
- 8GB DDR3 Memory
- 15.6"Full HD (1920 x 1080) Screen
- 1TB SATA Hard Drive (7200rpm)
- ATI® Radeon HD5870 w/1GB DDR5
- Blu-ray Drive
- Windows 7 Home Premium 64bit
- 802.11 b / g / n Wireless Lan
- Bluetooth
- HD Webcam
- HDMI Output
- Hi-Fi Dynaudio® Acoustics
- 9 Cell Battery / 3.5KG

£1699.99

Sound by DYNAUDIO

intel® CORE™ i7 inside™

Faster. Smarter.

★★★★★

Processor Rating

free
Gaming Mouse
and Rucksack

GX740

- Intel® Core™ i5 430M Processor 2.26GHz
- 4GB DDR3 Memory
- 17" WSXGA (1680x1050) HD Ready Display
- 640GB SATA Hard Drive
- ATI® Radeon HD5870 w/1GB DDR5
- Super-Multi DVD Drive
- Windows 7 Home Premium 64bit
- 802.11b / g / n Wireless Lan with Bluetooth
- 2MP built-in Webcam • HDMI Output
- 4.1 Surround Sound Speakers
- Free Carry Bag & Mouse
- 9 Cell Battery / 3.2KG

£999.99
MSI14022

GT740

- Intel® Core™ i7-720QM Processor
- 4GB DDR3 Memory
- 17" WSXGA (1680x1050) HD Ready Display
- 640GB SATA Hard Drive
- Nvidia® GeForce GTS250M Graphics
- Blu-ray Drive
- Windows 7 Home Premium
- 802.11b / g / n Wireless Lan with Bluetooth
- 1.3MP built-in Webcam
- HDMI Output
- 9 Cell Battery / 3.2KG

£1099
MSI14014

GT640

as above, but with:

- 15.4" WSXGA (1680x1050) HD Ready Display
- 9 Cell Battery / 3.2KG

£999
MSI15015

CR Series

CR500

Intel® Celeron® T3300 Processor 2.26GHz
2GB DDR2 Memory
15.6" (1366x768) HD Ready Display
320GB SATA Hard Drive
Nvidia® GeForce 8200M Graphics
Super-Multi DVD Drive
Windows 7 Home Premium
802.11b / g / n Wireless Lan
6 Cell Battery / 2.5KG

£379.99
SI14024

CR620

- Intel® Core™ i3-330M Processor 2.13GHz
- 3GB DDR3 Memory
- 15.6" (1366x768) HD Ready Display
- 320GB SATA Hard Drive
- Nvidia® GeForce 8200M Graphics
- Super-Multi DVD Drive
- Windows 7 Home Premium
- 802.11b / g / n Wireless Lan
- 6 Cell Battery / 2.5KG

£499.99
MSI14025

as above, but with:

- Intel® Core™ i5-430M Processor 2.26GHz
- 4GB DDR2 Memory
- 5000GB SATA Hard Drive

£599.99
MSI14026

MICRO ANVIKA

AC100

The AC100 is an ultra-thin mobile internet device with the intuitive Google Android™ platform, NVIDIAs' Tegra 250 processor, a 10.1" TruBrite display and built-in keyboard for ease of use. It also offers wireless connectivity, up to 8 hours constant use battery life, (180 hours in standby mode) as well as instant-on functionality making it the perfect device for social networking and web browsing wherever you are.

10.1”
TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation »»

AC100-10Z

- NVIDIA Tegra T250 Processor
- 512MB DDR2 Memory
- eMMC 8G Online Storage
- 10.1” SVGA LD CSV Display
- 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi
- Bluetooth 2.1+EDR
- Integrated 1.3MP WebCam
- Google Android Operating System

£249
TOS14074

NB250

Essential netbook computing. Offering up to 4.5 hours battery life, the ultra lightweight NB250 has a stylish gloss black textured desig and features a 25.7cm (10.1" TruBrite display). Processing is provided by the latest Intel® Atom™ N455 processor and the NB250 has a near full-size keyboard for ease of use.

10.1”
TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation »»

NB250-107

- Intel ATOM N455 Processor (1.66GHz)
- 1GB DDR3 Memory
- 250GB Hard Drive
- 10.1” SVGA LD CSV Display
- Intel NM10 Graphics
- 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi
- Integrated 0.3MP Webcam
- Windows 7 Starter

£279
TOS14075

R630

Offering unrivalled portability, performance and style, the Satellite R630 is Europe's thinnest and lightest full featured 33.8CM (13") laptop. The advanced air cooling technology allows a battery life of over eight hours and the inclusion of a full performance Intel Core i3 processor and a strengthened lightweight brushed magnesium alloy chassis with tiled keyboard provides a premium design.

13.3”
TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation »»

R630-138

- Intel Core i3-350M Processor (2.26GHZ)
- 4GB DDR3 Memory
- 320GB Hard Drive
- 13.3” HD 200 CSV LD Display
- DVD Super Multi Dual Layer
- Intel HM55 Graphics
- 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi
- Bluetooth 2.1+EDR
- Integrated 0.3MP Webcam
- Windows 7 Home Premium (64bit)

£699
TOS14082

Satellite C650

Affordable and stylish. The Satellite C650 is ideal for everyday computing and features a stylish textured matt black finish and 39.6cm (15.6") TruBrite® display. Added multimedia functionality includes a media card reader for quick and convenient transfers from your digital camera and other devices.

15.6"
TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation >>>
TOSHIBA

C650-166

- Intel Pentium T4500 Processor (2.30GHz)
- 2GB DDR3 Memory
- 250GB Hard Drive
- 15.6" HD 200 CSV LD Display
- DVD Super Multi Dual Layer
- Intel GL40 Graphics
- 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi
- Windows 7 Home Premium (64bit)

£399
TOS14077

C650-152

as above, but with:

- Intel Core i3-350M Processor (2.26 GHz)
- 3GB DDR3 Memory
- 320GB Hard Drive
- Intel HM55 Graphics
- Integrated 0.3MP Webcam

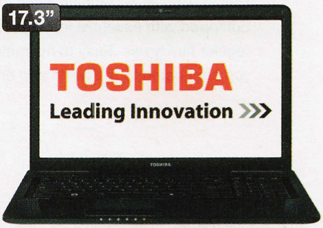
£499
TOS14078

Satellite L Series

Toshiba's Satellite L600 widescreen models are designed to offer quality computing performance. All models offer attractive, well-built chassis at affordable price points. The Satellite L600 series offers a 13.3", 15.6" or 17.3" Toshiba TruBrite display that provides a HD resolution of 1366 x 768 pixels and most models come with a numeric 10-key pad for smoother data entry. Plus, they all offer expansion slots for spreading out and doing more at a desk, and built-in DVD drives for loading programs, sharing documents and backing up your files.

3.3"
TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation >>>

15.6"
TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation >>>



L630-130

- Intel Core i3-350M Processor (2.26 GHz)
- 4GB DDR3 Memory
- 320GB Hard Drive
- 13.3" HD 200 CSV LD Display
- DVD Super Multi Dual Layer
- Intel HM55 Graphics
- 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi
- Bluetooth 2.1+EDR
- Integrated 0.3MP Webcam
- Windows 7 Home Premium (64bit)

£599
TOS14081

L650-1DG

- Intel Core i5-450M Processor (2.40/2.66 GHz Turbo)
- 3GB DDR3 Memory
- 320GB (5400rpm) SATA
- 15.6" HD 200 CSV LD Display
- DVD Super Multi Dual Layer
- Intel HM55 Graphics
- 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi
- Integrated 0.3MP Webcam
- Windows 7 Home Premium (64bit)

£599
TOS14079

L670-10N

- Intel Pentium P6000 Processor
- 4GB DDR3 Memory
- 500GB Hard Drive
- 17.3" HD+ 200 CSV LD Display
- DVD Super Multi Dual Layer
- Intel HM55 Graphics
- 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi
- Integrated 0.3MP Webcam
- Windows 7 Home Premium (64bit)

£529
TOS14080

HP Vivienne Tam

HP's hot new "Butterfly Lovers" digital clutch by Vivienne Tam is essential for playing, working and connecting on–the–go. HP Mini 210 Vivienne Tam Edition is a feather–light style accessory with a high definition display and Beats audio for superb sound - all in a slim, sleek design.

Mini 210-1099EA

- Intel Atom Processor N470 (1.83 GHz)
- 2GB RAM
- 320GB SATA Hard Disk Drive
- 10.1" Diagonal WSVGA LED HP BrightView
- Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3150
- Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium (32-bit)
- Webcam with Integrated Digital Microphone
- HDMI Output
- 3x USB 2.0
- Wireless LAN 802.11 b/g & Bluetooth
- 5 in 1 Card Reader
- Weight 1.22Kg

£449

HEW14855

HP Envy

HP Desktop PCs combine sleek design with intuitive features making them a great addition to the home or office. Equipped with essential features for everyday computing, the HP Pavilion Desktop PC is the obvious choice for regular family use. Easy to maintain, it comes complete with wireless connectivity and ample media storage. Keeping you connected to the world and entertained at all times.

Envy 15-1060

- Intel Core processor i7-720QM (1.60 GHz)
- 4GB RAM
- 320GB SATA Hard Disk Drive
- 15.6" Diagonal Full High Definition HP TFT
- ATI Mobility Radeon HD 4830 Graphics (1GB)
- LightScribe SuperMulti 8X DVDRW with Double Layer
- Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium (64-bit)
- HP NightVision Webcam with Integrated digital Microphone
- HDMI Output
- 3 x USB 2.0
- Wireless LAN 802.11 a/g/n & Bluetooth
- 2-in-1 integrated Digital Media Reader
- Weight 2.35Kg

£999.99

HEW14836

FIND US AT:
Harrods, Westfield London, Tottenham Court Road, Croydon, Kingston and Newcastle

HP Pavilion Series

HP Pavilion notebook PCs are all about your entertainment—offering you the perfect balance of performance and mobility. Immerse yourself in an experience like no other with an HP Pavilion notebook PC. Delight your senses with your choice of sophisticated designs, then fast-track your way to TV, photos, movies, music and more with built-in HP MediaSmart software.

Pavilion dv6-3040sa

- AMD Turion II Dual-Core Mobile P520 Processor (2.3 GHz)
- 4GB RAM
- 500GB SATA Hard Disk Drive
- 39.6cm (15.6") Diagonal HD LED HP BrightView Display
- ATI Radeon™ HD 5470 Graphics (512MB)
- LightScribe SuperMulti DVD±RW DL Drive
- Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium (64-bit)
- Integrated Webcam
- Altec Lansing Speakers
- HDMI Output & Firewire Port
- Wireless LAN 802.11 b/g/n & Bluetooth
- 5 in 1 Card Reader
- Weight 2.43Kg

£599 AVAILABLE IN: ● ● ○
HEW14867/8/9

The HP Pavilion dv6 offers powerful performance, graphics, audio, video and HP software for outstanding multimedia and gaming. Plus, stay stylishly mobile with bold finishes, touchable textures and materials that fit your lifestyle.

Made to work the way you do, it offers an intuitive backlit keyboard plus large clickpad for fluid controls and the latest gesture support.

Pavilion dv7-4035sa

- AMD Phenom II Triple-Core P820 Processor (1.8 GHz)
- 4GB RAM
- 500GB SATA Hard Disk Drive
- 43.9cm (17.3") Diagonal HD LED HP BrightView Display
- ATI Radeon™ HD 5470 Graphics (512MB)
- LightScribe SuperMulti DVD±RW DL Drive
- Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium (64-bit)
- Integrated HP TrueVision Webcam
- HDMI Output
- Wireless LAN 802.11 b/g/n & Bluetooth
- 5 in 1 Card Reader
- Weight 3.72Kg

£699
HEW14872

The HP Pavilion dv7 Notebook gives you full PC performance, plus the freedom of mobility and is designed to look good and last longer, with fewer components in a sleek and durable aluminum chassis.

With it's large, high definition screen, intuitive backlit keyboard, large clickpad and one-touch internet access, the dv7 makes work and play easier and more fun.

Pavilion dv8-3101

- Intel Core i7-720QM Processor (1.6 GHz)
- 4GB RAM
- 640GB SATA Hard Disk Drive
- 46.7cm (18.4") Diagonal Full HD LED HP BrightView Display
- NVIDIA GeForce GT 230M Graphics (1GB)
- Blu-ray Combo Drive with LightScribe
- Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium (64-bit)
- Integrated Webcam
- Altec Lansing Speakers
- HDMI Output & Firewire Port
- Wireless LAN 802.11 b/g/n & Bluetooth
- 5 in 1 Card Reader
- Weight 3.98Kg

£1299
HEW14875

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iMac

from £969

The new iMac features a 21.5-inch or 27-inch LED-backlit display with a widescreen 16:9 aspect ratio - perfect for HD video. Dual-core Intel processors now start at 3.06GHz, available quad-core Intel processors boost performance up to 2x, and advanced graphics make the most of every pixel. iMac also comes standard with the Apple Wireless Keyboard and the new wireless Magic Mouse: the world's first Multi-Touch mouse.

21.5" **3.06Ghz 4GB Memory**

500GB	£969	MAC11785
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27" **3.06Ghz 4GB Memory**

1TB	£1378	MAC11787
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27" **Quad Core**

2.66Ghz Core i5, 4GB Memory

1TB	£1634	MAC11788

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- LED Backlit IPS Panels
- 256Mb Nvidia Geforce 9400M (21")
- 512Mb ATI Radeon 4670/4850 (27")
- 4x USB, 1x FW800
- Wireless keyboard and mouse
- Built-in iSight camera
- SD Card slot
- OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard

MacBook

from £849

A mere 2.74 cm thin and even lighter at 2.13kg, the sleek new MacBook cuts a slim profile on any desk (or in any backpack or briefcase). It features a new seamless, more durable unibody enclosure with rounded contours that make it easy to pick up and slide into and out of your bag. And it's made of rugged polycarbonate that withstands the rough and tumble of everyday life.

13.3" **2.4Ghz, 2GB Memory**

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- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M Graphics
- AirPort Extreme Wi-Fi & Bluetooth 2.1
- Built-in iSight camera
- OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard

Magic Mouse

£56

The same Multi-Touch technology first introduced on the revolutionary iPhone comes to the mouse. Click anywhere, scroll in any direction and swipe through images on its smooth, seamless top shell. MAC55112

MacBook Pro

13" from £999

15" from £1499

17" from £1899

The new MacBook Pro combines the efficiency of an integrated graphics processor with the desktop-class performance of a discrete graphics processor. That's because it has both. And thanks to a new graphics architecture, it's easy to switch between these two processors.

Why Mac

A Mac is better at the things you do everyday, like surfing the web, checking email, and working with Microsoft Office files.

With a Mac you can do amazing things with photos, movies, and music—right out of the box.

Advanced technologies such as the latest processors, next-generation graphics, and an innovative long-lasting battery come standard.

The operating system, Mac OS X Snow Leopard, is tailor-made to help you get the most from your Mac.

Key Features

- Next-generation NVIDIA graphics
- Built-in battery that lasts up to 10 hours (8 to 9 hours on the 15- and 17-inch MacBook Pro) on a single charge
- Precision aluminum unibody enclosure
- Brilliant LED-backlit display with wide-angle viewing & a broad colour gamut
- Hi-resolution (1680x1050) screen option on 15" models.
- Glossy & anti-glare screen options available on the 15" and 17" models.
- Glass Multi-Touch trackpad
- Full-size backlit keyboard with ambient light sensor for automatic adjustment of keyboard illumination and screen brightness
- Gigabit Ethernet, AirPort Extreme 802.11n wireless networking, and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
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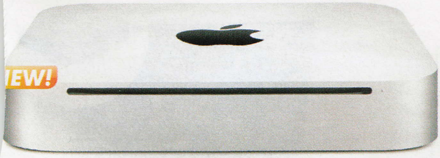
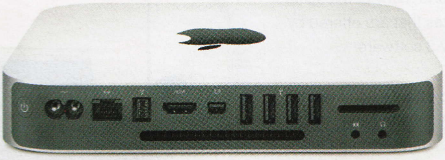
Mac mini

from £649





Mac mini features an all-new, 1.4-inch-thin aluminum enclosure. It's called the unibody — a seamless enclosure carved from a single, solid block of aluminum. The unibody construction was originally developed for Apple's MacBook Pro. This ensures absolute precision of every component of the Mac mini enclosure.

You may notice something missing from this Mac mini: the power supply. Actually, its power supply is built in. So there's no bulky brick, and there are fewer cables to connect. Which means Mac mini takes up even less space than before.

Now Mac mini makes it easier than ever to hook up to an HDTV or digital display using the HDMI port and Mini DisplayPort. There's also a built-in SD card slot so you can grab photos and videos from your digital still or video camera.

What Mac mini doesn't do could be its biggest feat. It doesn't waste energy. When Mac mini is idle, it consumes less than 10 watts - a 25 percent reduction from the previous generation. Mac mini is made from highly recyclable aluminum. And its redesigned, lighter package makes it more efficient to ship.

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2.66Ghz, 4GB Memory
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EyeTV Netstream DTT

TV FOR YOUR ENTIRE HOME NETWORK.

EyeTV Netstream DTT is a dual network tuner for digital TV. It connects to your TV antenna and to your Ethernet network router/switch to stream digital television in HD (where available) to your Macs and PCs. If you have a Wi-Fi network you can watch TV wirelessly on a portable computer, free from cables.

- Stream digital TV (DVB-T/Freeview) to the computers on your home network
- Enjoy pristine digital quality television including HDTV where broadcast via DVB-T
- Compatible with Mac and PC; both can use EyeTV Netstream DTT at the same time
- Watch TV wirelessly on a portable computer if you have a Wi-Fi network
- As a network device, it does not have to be installed near your computers

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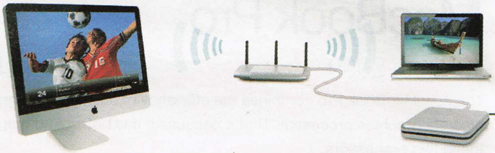

EyeTV software, together with compatible hardware, turns your Mac into both a TV and a Digital Video Recorder (DVR). Watch, record, edit, and enjoy television on your Mac, and play it on your iPod, iPhone or Apple TV.

All Elgato TV tuners come with EyeTV 3 Software for Mac. EyeTV tuners are compatible with Windows 7 and work great with Windows Media Center. The included THC software for Windows supports many of the same features that are offered by EyeTV 3 software.

Elgato offers a wide variety of solutions to meet your needs, depending on the type of TV signals broadcast in your area and the type of TV reception service you use or subscribe to.

EyeTV DTT

- Receives digital TV (DVB-T, or Freeview)
- Slender USB stick
- Full-size and built-in coaxial plug; does not require an adapter

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EyeTV Hybrid

- Receives free-to-view digital TV (DVB-T and DVB-C) as well as analogue TV
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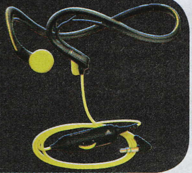

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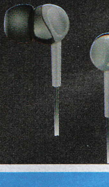

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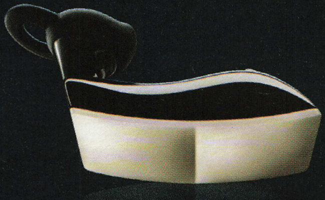
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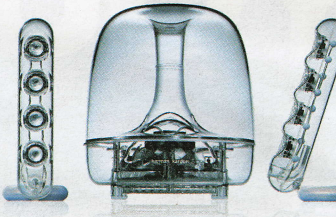

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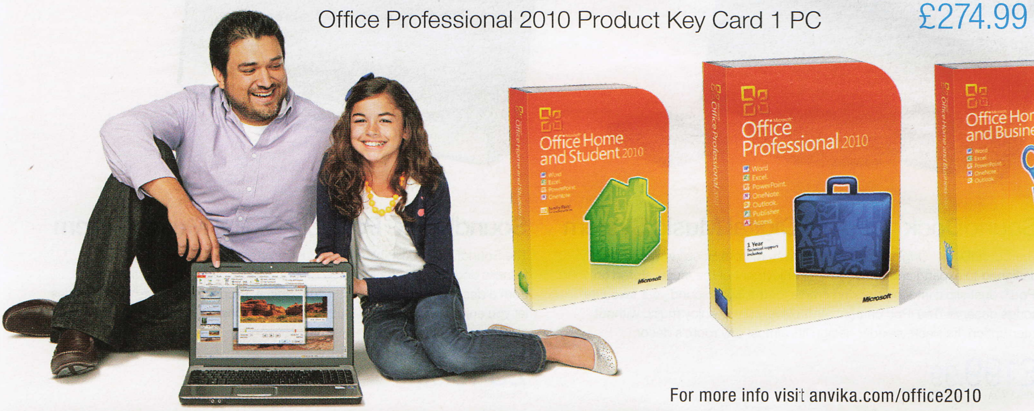
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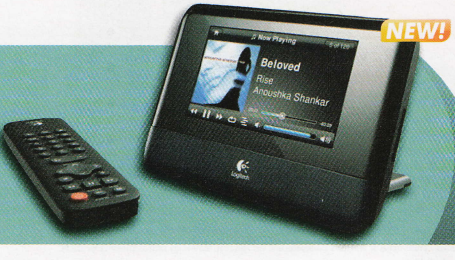

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Slim and light with smart, easy to use features. With 4x Optical Zoom, intelligent Auto and double anti blur technology the W310 is crammed with features to help you take great pictures.

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Panasonic

Lumix TZ10

12.1MP | 12x | 3"LCD PAN52428

£299.99

The new Lumix compact super zoom. Combining a sensitive 12.1 megapixel, 25mm Wide-angle 12x Optical Zoom with LEICA DC Lens. Combining the big zoom with the POWER O.I.S leaves you with blur free memories. If pictures are not enough, with a single button you can switch to HD Movie capture in the high quality AVCHD format. What's more the TZ10 features GPS, perfect for geo-tagging and organising your photos.

2.1MP | 8x | 2.7"LCD

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eaturing a wide angle 5x Optical oom lens that lets you easily apture groups of people and ndscapes. Intelligent Auto brings all together for great looking hots.

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12MP | 4x | 2.7"LCD

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A stylish compact camera using folded optics technology to remain slim and pocketable. The 4x Optical Zoom, HD movie capture and intelligent auto ensure that this camera is not just good looking.

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14.1MP | 8x | 2.7"LCD

Lumix ZX3

Big optical zoom with out the fat. The slim and compact ZX3 packs a 25mm Ultra Wide-angle 8x Optical Zoom LEICA DC Lens, Power O.I.S to keep shaky hands at bay and HD video capture using the AVCHD format.

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12.1MP | 14-42mm | 3"LCD

Lumix G2

The DMC-G2 features a touch-screen operation with 3.0-inch free-angle LCD featuring Full-time Live View and high-speed Contrast AF System. The G2 can record HD movie of 720P in AVCHD Lite with high sound quality of Dolby Digital Creator.

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14.6MP | 18-55mm F3.5-5.6 | 3"OLED

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2.2MP | 5x | 2.5"LCD

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AM52092B/S

14MP | 7x | 3.7" TOUCH LCD

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The ST5500 offers the world's first 3.7" AMOLED touch screen for clear crisp images and saves power for more shots per charge. With built-in Bluetooth 2.0 and Wi-Fi connectivity you can now send and post pictures almost as quickly as you take them.

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12.2MP | 15x | 3"LCD

WB650

Features a 24mm wide with 15X optical zoom and an AMOLED display which makes make pictures clearer to see even under direct sunlight and a built-in GPS with downloadable map-viewer lets you know where in the world you are when you take a picture.

£239.99
M52096B

12.4MP | 5x | DUAL LCD

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Delivering an unrivalled user experience, the PL150s hidden 1.5" LCD located on the front of the camera allows you to take accurate portraits using the front screen as a guide.

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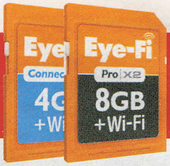

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Powershot S90

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The pocketable PowerShot S90 gives powerful everyday shooting. Shoot quickly with a lens Control Ring and get superior low-light performance with a high-sensitivity 10.0 MP CCD and f/2.0 lens.

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Canon
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S90

12.1MP | 4x | 2.7"LCD

IXUS 105

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12.1MP | 4x | 2.7"LCD

IXUS 130

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14.1MP | 5x | 3.5"LCD

IXUS 210 IS

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14.1MP | 14x | 3.5"LCD

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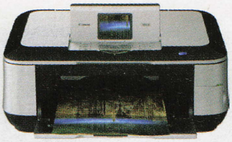

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With ethernet connections, multiple computers can link to these drives over a network at work or even in the home!

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- 5400rpm
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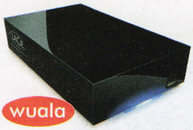
750GB 7200rpm	£169.99	EDD53671A
1TB 5400rpm	£209.99	EDD53671D

Desktop Drives



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- Design by Neil Poulton

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1.5TB	£199.99	EDD53525
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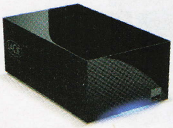

MAX Raid

- USB 2.0, FireWire 400/800 & eSATA interfaces
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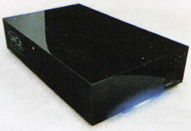
Network Drives



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d2 Network 2

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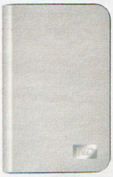

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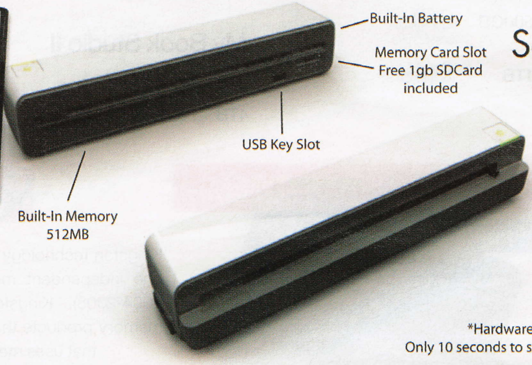
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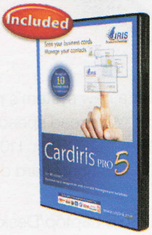
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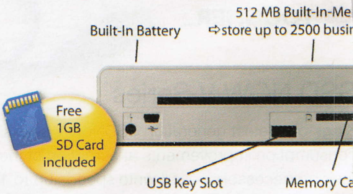
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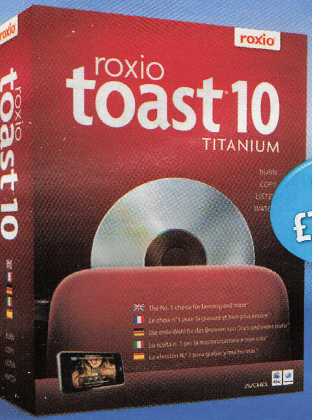
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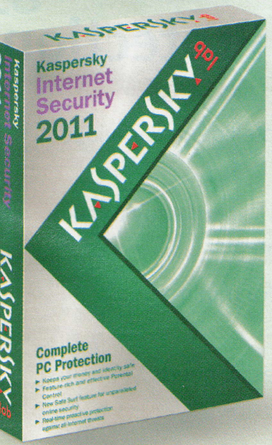
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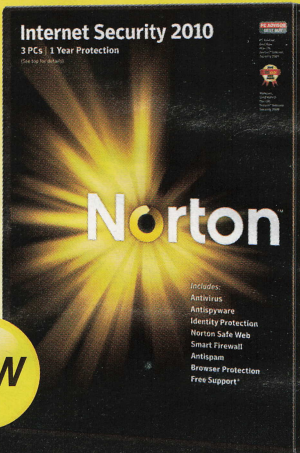
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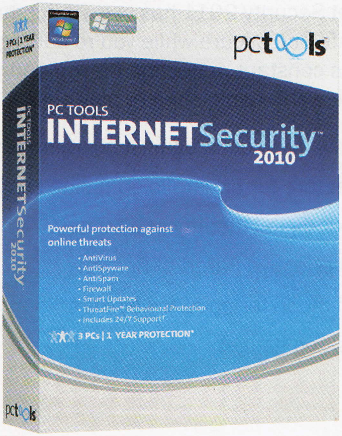
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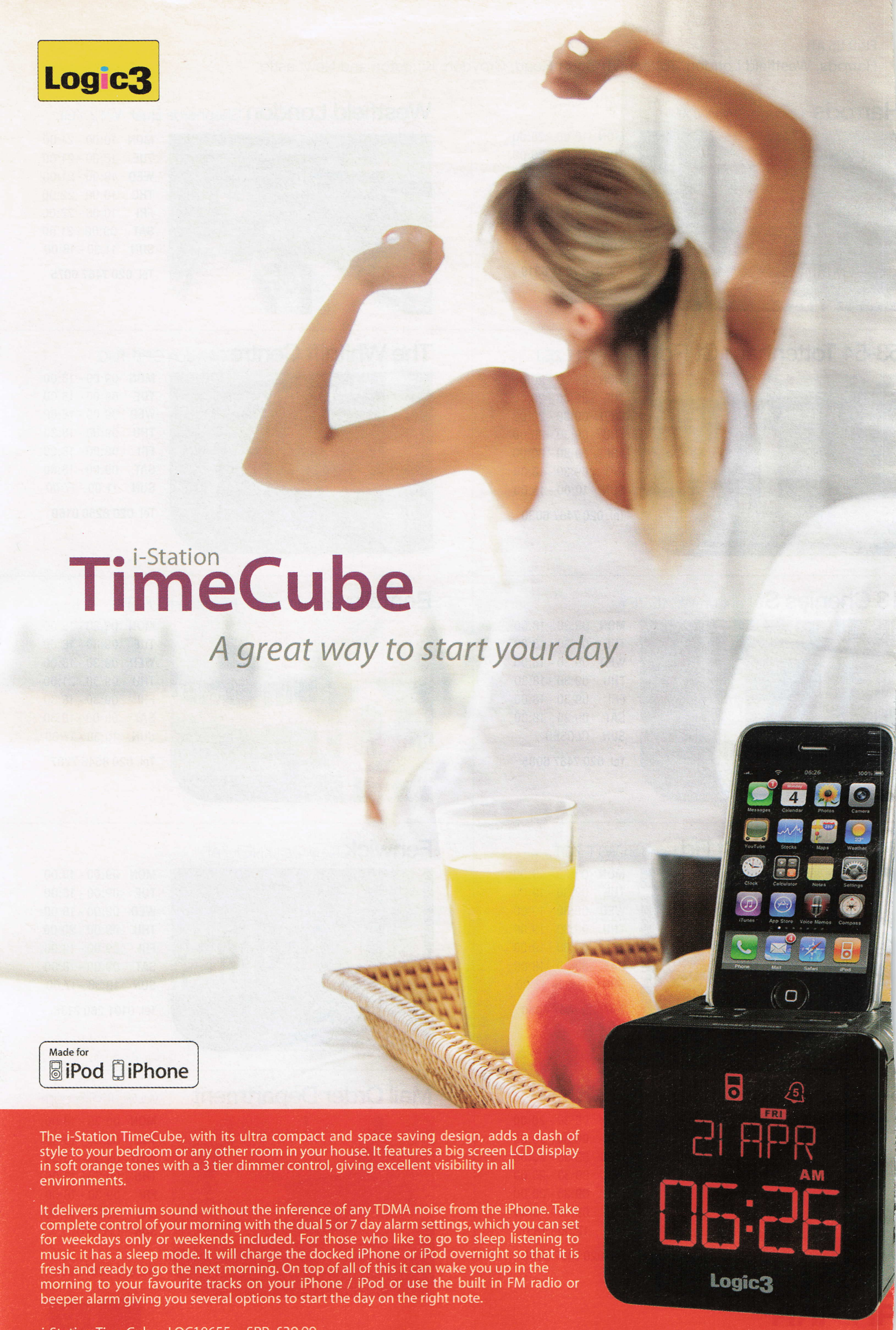

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TOP 10 PORTABLE MEDIA

1

Stuff HOT BUY

Apple iPod Touch from £140

www.apple.com/uk

The third-gen iPod Touch is amazingly thin, with a shiny, contoured rear and tapered edges. It has external volume controls, an inline remote, an external speaker and Nike+ functionality built in. It's quite pricey: £285 for the 64GB version and £210 for the 32GB, but you now get a faster processor. The entry-level 8GB model is £140. The Touch isn't just a music player, though: it's a full-on entertainment system, complete with Wi-Fi, email, maps and access to stacks of great games and apps, a great many of which are free or so cheap that they might as well be.

KILLER FEATURE Multi-touch comes into its own when web browsing

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

One of the sharpest bits of tech we've ever seen, the Touch is a complete entertainment system

2

Creative Zen X-Fi from £85 ★★★★★

Thriftier consumers might be put off by the price of the Touch. So, wallet watchers, take note of the 16- or 32GB Zen X-Fi. It's exceptional value for money, with Wi-Fi syncing and streaming, decent headphones and stunning sound quality.

3

Apple iPod Classic £175 ★★★★★

Some have predicted the death of Apple's original-style iPod, citing its lack of frills and party tricks. Instead it's still going strong with a 160GB hard drive, meaning it's the only choice for gigabyte geeks. Fill it with Lossless files and you'll be in audio heaven.

4

Apple iPod Nano from £105 ★★★★★

At a glance it's identical to the previous Nano – but flip the fifth-gen model round and it points its all-new video camera at you. The capacity stays the same (8GB or 16GB) but it's now bolstered by an FM radio (with Live Pause function) and a built-in speaker.

5

Sony NWZ-A845 £140 ★★★★★

Sony's pound-for-pound Nano rival falls short on sound (despite having noise cancelling built-in and bundled headphones worth £70), but with a larger 2.4in OLED screen, 16GB capacity and hi-res BBC iPlayer support it emerges victorious for video.

6

Apple iPad Wi-Fi from £430 ★★★★★

The 9.7in screen makes the iPad too cumbersome to be your day-to-day PMP, but feed it some movies and the 1024x768 resolution means video looks awesome (if you can avoid reflections). The Wi-Fi-only version is also better value than the four-star 3G model.

7

Sony NWZ-B142F from £30 ★★★★★

Crammed with features that belie its diminutive size, Sony's latest stick-style player not only sounds great but packs in 2GB of storage, an FM radio and a voice recorder. Obviously there's no video function, but it still gets an LCD screen. Take that, Shuffle.

8

Cowon J3 from £200 ★★★★☆

With a nice big 3.3in AMOLED screen (and a price to reflect it), Cowon's 16GB J3 makes video sparkle. There are features galore, including A2DP Bluetooth and a Flash player for downloaded games, but the clunky menu system and sonics could be better.

9

Sony X-Series from £145 ★★★★☆

Despite dripping in next-gen functionality, including an OLED touchscreen, Wi-Fi and built-in noise-cancelling, Sony's flagship Walkman stumbles at some fundamental hurdles. Sound and video performance is good, but its web experience lets it down.

10

Archos 5 Internet Tablet from £180 ★★★★☆

More of a modification to the old Archos 5 than an entirely new PMP, this 4.8in, Wi-Fi equipped Internet Tablet runs on Google Android. That means its video performance is accomplished but the mish mash of interfaces makes things overly fussy.

INSTANT EXPERT

Tom Wiggins Digitally compressed
tomw@stuff.tv

Being an international super spy must get boring. Especially if you're Solid Snake. All that sneaking around, camping out in boxes waiting for the bad guys to turn their back must be enough to put him to sleep. Lucky, then, that **Sony** has a special **Metal Gear Solid Peacewalker** edition of its **W252** wearable Walkman (£50, sony.co.uk). With 2GB to fill with sweeping orchestral scores and husky-voiced podcasts (that's people with husky voices, not the sound of sledge-pulling dogs), it's water resistant and will keep playing for an entire 11-hour stakeout. That or you can just take it down the gym. Either way, the camo paintjob goes nicely with a pair of night-vision goggles.

> // Sony's camo W252 will keep playing for an 11-hour stakeout"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 **Capacity** This should reflect what you're using the media player for. If you want it for short-term gym use, go for a small widget with solid-state memory (and therefore no moving parts). If you want to take your whole music collection with you at all times, go for a hard-drive based jukebox. 1GB = 250 songs. Video needs more space, dependant on how it's been compressed.

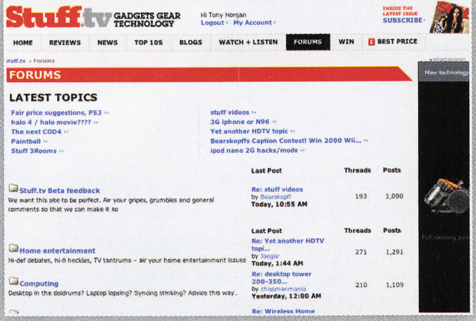
2 **Size** If you only want audio, smaller is better. However, you won't want to watch video on a tiny screen for long, so go for at least a 3in display.

3 **Battery life** Hard-drive jukeboxes will last around 10-15 hours. Solid-state MP3 players tend to last longer as they don't have to expend energy on the moving parts of a hard drive.

4 **Earphones** Don't expect to get a decent pair of earphones with your player. Generally those in the box are poor, so it's worth spending upwards of £30 on some quality sound-isolators.

Disagree with our top ten?

Have your say on the **Stuff.tv** forums.



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SEVENOAKS SOUND & VISION

1

Stuff HOT BUY

Klipsch Image X10 £180

www.klipsch.com

Proving once and for all that it's what you do with it that counts, the X10s may be tiny but they sound utterly mighty. This sound-isolating in-ear design takes a lolly-stick-thin barrel of bronzed, machined aluminium, sticks in a single balanced armature and skirts the business end with an ultra comfortable sliver of silicone. Once you've inserted them deep into your ear canals, the sound you get is amazing. Punchy, insightful, detailed, dynamic and deeply musical. Check out the new "i" versions – they have an in-line microphone and iPhone controls.

KILLER FEATURE They weigh just 10g – less than an ant's kneepads

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

Tiny, comfortable and the best sound available at this price: the X10s are an in-ear masterclass

2

Sennheiser CX300-II £15 ★★★★★

Thanks to amazing price reductions, the CX300-IIs represent even better value for money. Replace your bundled headphones with these and you'll find out what you've been missing: deep bass, sparkling detail and dramatic dynamics. You'll thank us later.

3

Bose QuietComfort 15 £280 ★★★★★

Bose's latest long-haul headphones are its finest yet. Wearing a pair is as comfortable as binding pillows to your head with silken thread, and both sound and noise cancelling are exemplary. For a louder, more rocking listen, try Monster's Beats Studio.

4

Klipsch Image S4 £60 ★★★★★

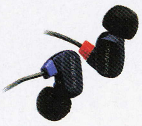
The chaps at Klipsch sure know how to make a sound-isolating headphone. Combining the bass attack of the yoof-oriented "street" headphones with the refinement and clarity you'll find in audiophile IEMs, these are great fun and stonking value for money.

5

Phonak Audéo PFE 122 £130 ★★★★★

Made by a Swiss hearing aid manufacturer, the 122s are as beautifully built and accurate as you'd expect. They're also clear, insightful, detailed and punchy, plus they have a mic for hands-free calling. Not for bass heads, but the refined ear will love them.

6



SoundMagic PL50 £55 ★★★★★

Proper in-ear monitors at a staggeringly affordable price. The PL50s aren't the bassiest, but for vocal delivery no headphones anywhere near this price can touch them. They're honest, insightful and fun, and they come with plenty of accessories.

7

Sennheiser RS 180 £190 ★★★★★

The words "good" and "wireless headphones" are seldom seen together, but these home cans provide cable-free listening without compromise. Hefty, plush and dynamic to listen to, and luxurious to wear, the icing is the Atari logo-shaped dock.

8

Shure SE530 £250 ★★★★★

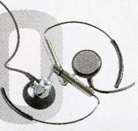
Shure is the granddaddy of the sound isolation game, so when it came to designing the best in-ear monitors in the world, it knew what to do. Each earpiece has three separate drivers, delivering a flawless soundstage and insight across the spectrum.

9

AKG K702 £215 ★★★★★

With a swanky headphone amp, these reference-quality, open-backed headphones create a sound to rival hi-fi speakers ten times the price. Got more dosh? Try the supremely revealing Sennheiser HD 800s or breathtaking Grado GS1000is.

10



Creative Aurvana Air £80 ★★★★★

To some, the Airs will be the ultimate in-ear headphone. They sound open, natural and insightful: you can hear every nuance. Their open-backed design means they don't like noise, but you can live with it. They used to be almost double the price, too.

INSTANT EXPERT

Lucy Hedges In one ear, out the other

lucy@stuff.tv

I love original looking headphones, so I'm looking forward to playing with a pair of the new **Jaybird SB2 Sportsbands** (£100, jaybirdgear.com), which have a definite 1980s flavour to them. Available in nine hues, the Bluetooth-connected lug-mufflers are tuned to give a "high fidelity bass response", so hopefully that means they'll be good with hip-hop and dance. There's a built-in mic for faff-free nattering and the earpiece buttons give you remote control of your A2DP-enabled phone or MP3 player – although if you're an iDevice owner, you'll need to grab the JayBird Bluetrax app from the App Store. Look out for a test sometime soon...

> // The Jaybird SB2 Sportbands have a definite 1980s flavour"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 Anti-noise Headphones damp background kerfuffle in two ways: noise-cancelling and sound-isolating. The former uses powered electronics to monitor the outside world and generate a neutralising sound wave. It's normally integrated into comfy over-ear cans, great for long-haul travel. The latter creates a physical barrier: normally tiny-small but invasive "in-ear monitors" (IEMs) jammed deep into lugs.

2 Open day? Open-backed cans let noise in (and out). The plus side is they're less claustrophobic and have a pleasing, airy sound.

3 Drivers/armatures These create the music. Most headphones have one per ear, but IEMs have up to three. The main benefit of extra drivers is usually increased frequency response.

4 At the gym Avoid in-line volume controls if you're working out as they bounce around. Look for lightweight, water-resistant designs.

Order at PLAY.COM from £ 79.99 get a free Logitech Pure-Fi iPod dock worth £ 69.00

cnet Editors' Choice Mar 2009

Stuff ★★★★★ Phonak Audéo PFE 122 March 2010

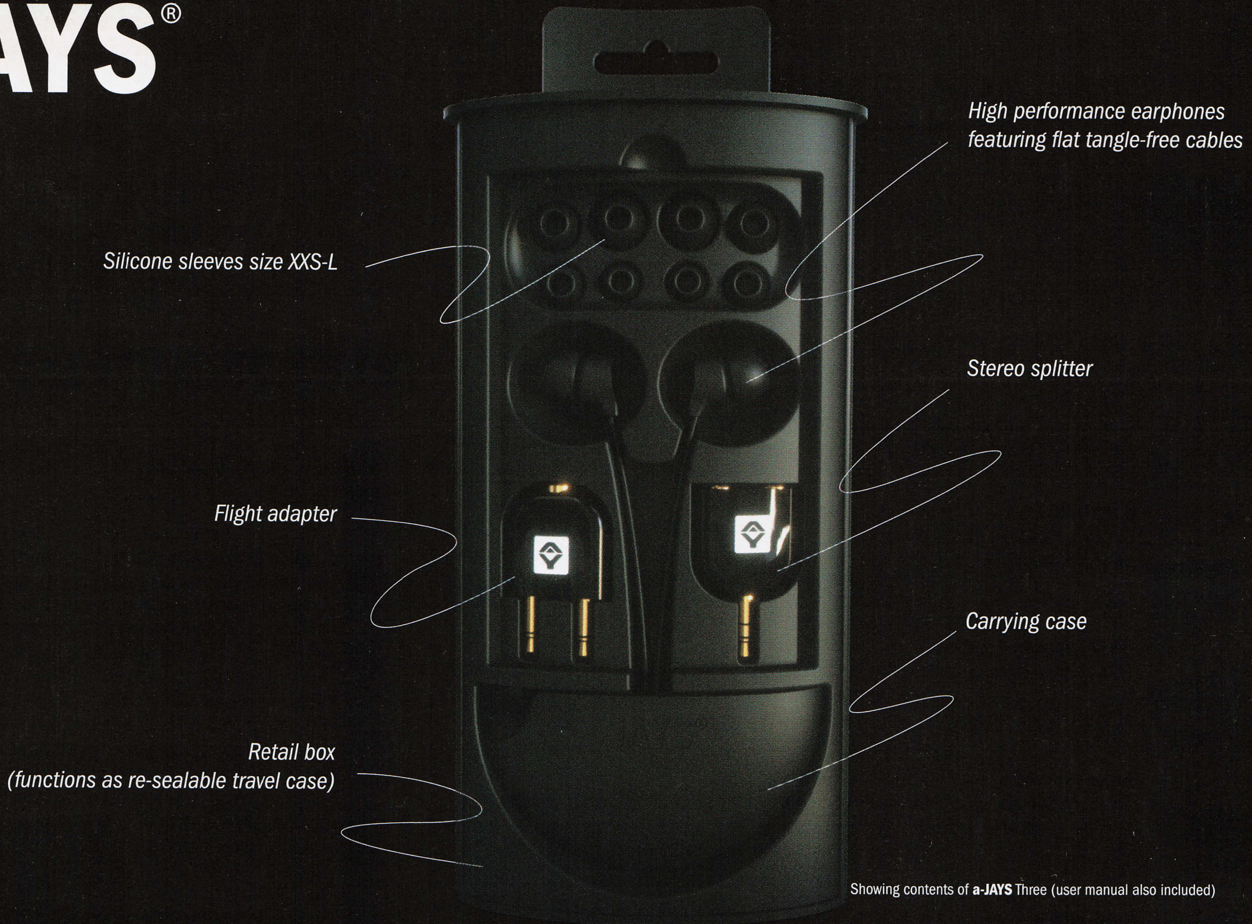
AUDÉO
PERFECT FIT FOR PERFECT SOUND

For those who love music. From those who know the most about hearing.
As the world's leading provider of hearing instruments, we know a thing or two about the human ear. We have used this knowledge to develop the new Audéo Perfect Fit Earphones – the most comfortable and best fitting earphones you will have ever tried. They deliver crystal clear sound quality whilst blocking out unwanted background noise. Does this sound too good to be true?

www.audeoworld.com

PHONAK life is on

JAYS®


High performance earphones featuring flat tangle-free cables
Silicone sleeves size XXS-L
Stereo splitter
Flight adapter
Carrying case
Retail box (functions as re-sealable travel case)

Showing contents of **a-JAYS** Three (user manual also included)

THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

a-JAYS One
t-JAYS One
a-JAYS Two
t-JAYS Two
a-JAYS Three
t-JAYS Three

a-JAYS One / **t-JAYS** One

Version One comes in a black matt earphone finish along with a wide range of silicone sleeves from size XXS - L. Retail box can also be used as a travel case for a safe and dust free protection.

a-JAYS One **£19,99** | **t-JAYS** One **£59,99**

a-JAYS Two / **t-JAYS** Two

Version Two comes in a black deep high gloss earphone finish, customized drivers for a more detailed sound, including silicone sleeves from size XXS - L, a stereo splitter so you can share your favorite songs with a friend and a flight adapter so you can use your earphones with the audio in-flight system. Retail box can also be used as a travel case for a safe and dust free protection.

a-JAYS Two **£29,99** | **t-JAYS** Two **£69,99**

a-JAYS Three / **t-JAYS** Three

Version Three, each series' flagship model, comes in a black rubber coated earphone finish, TCD drivers for a high performance sound and a wide soundstage. The flagship models come loaded with accessories; Silicone sleeves from size XXS - L to fit all ears, a stereo splitter so you can share your favorite songs with a friend, a flight adapter for airline audio systems and a travel case for storing your earphones while on the go. Retail box can also be used as a travel case for a safe and dust free protection.

a-JAYS Three **£39,99** | **t-JAYS** Three **£79,99**

a-JAYS Series

Intro level high performance earphones featuring a powerful 8,6mm driver and flat tangle free cables.

t-JAYS Series

10mm driver with enhanced sound quality with a slimline design. Can be worn in two ways for ultimate fitting. Dividable cables to avoid unnecessary loose cables.

www.jays.se

Available from discerning retail stores including Harrods, Selfridges and online at jaysearphones.co.uk.

TOP 10 HI-FI

1

Stuff HOT BUY

Marantz M-CR502 £350

www.marantz.com

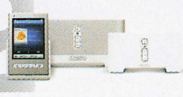
The M-CR502 looks cute, sounds fantastic, and on a performance-per-pound basis is the best all-in-one micro system sensible money can buy – especially now that healthy dealer discounts are available. The CD player is a cracker, easily the equal of many standalone separates, and audio reproduction is crisp, accurate and weighty, despite the unit's diminutive proportions. There are quality DAB, FM and AM tuners, and you can connect your MP3 player via the dual fascia-mounted USB or 3.5mm aux-ins. Matching speakers are available for £100.

KILLER FEATURE **Proper hi-fi sound from an inexpensive micro**

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

Good looking and great sounding, Marantz's slick baby hi-fi delivers on all levels – even price

2

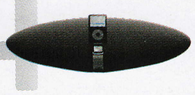


Sonos BU250 £785 ★★★★★
This system includes the amp-free ZP90 player, the amplified ZP120 and the CR200 touchscreen remote. Connect the ZP90 to your existing hi-fi, a pair of speakers to the ZP120 in your bedroom, then stream tunes from a hard drive or the net. Easy. Brilliant.

3

Naim Uniti £2000 ★★★★★
If you can afford it, this is the only hi-fi you need: audiophile sound from CD, DAB, FM or a PMP, plus Wi-Fi and Ethernet connectivity. The smaller "Qute" version is almost as good for £1350, and both can be controlled via Naim's trick new iPhone/iPod app.

4



B&W Zeppelin £390 ★★★★★
The Zeppelin is the perfect aesthetic complement to the iPod, and it's no slouch when it comes to performance, either, with rich treble and prodigious bass. We reckon it's the best standalone dock you can buy – but B&W's five-star Zeppelin "Mini" runs it close.

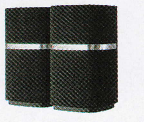
5

Arcam Solo Mini £745 ★★★★★
The Solo Mini packs all of Arcam's hi-fi prowess into a sleek, compact chassis. Audio quality is uniformly superb, whether playing from CD, DAB, the fascia's USB input or the optional iPod-friendly rDock. It's just a bit pricey compared to Marantz's M-CR502.

6

Pure Sensia £200 ★★★★★
The Sensia is an über radio: it packs DAB, FM and Wi-Fi for streaming and internet station-listening, a 5.7in capacitive touchscreen, and you can download apps onto it. Crucially, with two 3in speakers and a credible 30W of power, it also sounds great.

7

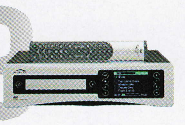


B&W MM-1 £400 ★★★★★
Cut out the middleman and turn your PC into a hi-fi with B&W's MM-1s. They're only 17cm high, but pack digital sound processing, 2x18W amplification, a DAC, a 3in woofer and 1in tweeter per channel and connect via USB or a 3.5mm line-in. Simple, effective.

8

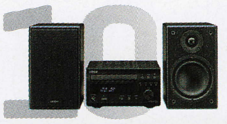
Sharp DK-AP8P £100 ★★★★★
This compact portable iPod dock packs an impressively proper sound thanks to dual 1W drivers, bolstered by a tiny 2W ported sub. The chunky remote doubles as a speaker cover, too, so it's safe to chuck in a bag. Not got a 'Pod? Then there's a 3.5mm line-in...

9



Myryad Mi £1215 ★★★★★
British hi-fi companies might be small, but they're big on ideas and performance. Myryad's Mi is a perfect example: it's a top-notch CD player and DAB radio, producing frankly brilliant audio, and offers full, super-slick iPod integration, not just a line-in.

10



Denon D-M37DAB £190 ★★★★★
Just as this was looking in danger of dropping off the Top 10, Denon has announced its replacement, the imaginatively titled D-M38DAB. See right for more deets, but it's only a mild spec tweak, so should be good. Means there'll be deals on the old one, too...

INSTANT EXPERT

Nic Shaw Audio-filer
nic@stuff.tv

The lack of separates in this Top 10 isn't because we don't love them. We do – witness the Nov '09 issue's Hi-Fi Supergeek feature – but specialist boxes are somehow less gadgety than do-it-all micros, docks and streamers. If you want a simple, no-frills system that offers the best possible sound-per-pound, though, separates are the way to go. Take a gander at **Marantz**'s new **CD5004 CD player** and **PM5004 amp**, for example – at £220 and £250 apiece, they're entry-level separates, yet coupled to some decent speakers, they'll produce a mighty sound, full of rich detail and subtle nuances that micros miss – even, I'd wager, the brand's own M-CR502. Is that what you want? Or do you want features galore?

> // For the best possible sound-per-pound, separates are still better"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 **Spread 'em** As proven by the Marantz, mini doesn't have to mean manky. Separate speakers that you can spread out will help sound quality. Adding a subwoofer, if possible, is also a good move unless you've got big speakers.

2 **In the box** Keeping the mini-system market alive is going to mean adding more features for less money – so demand DAB, decent build quality and aux-in sockets for your PMP, plus HDMI if you want TV connectivity.

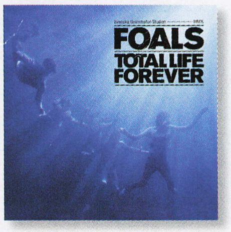
3 **Ugly duckling?** No matter how well-specced a mini system is, it still needs to fit with the decor of the room it's going in. There are plenty of lookers out there, so don't settle for a minger.

4 **Wake up!** If your system is for the bedroom, a timer is a good feature to have. Waking up to music – even Swedish death metal or happy hardcore – is infinitely preferable to being reanimated by a dodgy alarm on your phone.

OUR PICK NEW MUSIC

Blitzen Trapper: Destroyer of the Void
★★★★☆
Blending '60s Americana, psychedelia and '70s glam rock, BT are both familiar and fresh. *Destroyer of the Void* lacks the killer tunes of its predecessor, but for fans of any of the above, it won't disappoint.

Aeroplane: We Can't Fly ★★★★☆
Italian remixers *du jour* Stephen Fasano and Vito Deluca announced the launch of this, their first album, at about the same time as their split. It's both a triumphant debut and a magnificent swan-song, with Ibizan beats and nu-disco grooves.



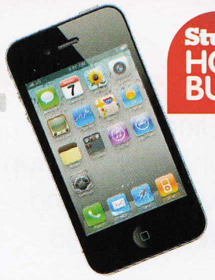
Foals: Total Life Forever ★★★★★
Foal's second album is more emotionally transparent than their mathematical debut. The insistent rhythms and guitar structures remain, but instead of merely impressing, they now have the power to blow you away. A great record.

Booka Shade: More! ★★★☆☆
Booka Shade's Arno and Walter have made some fine records – 2006's *Movements* is ace – but while *More!*'s dancefloor-driven instrumentals *Teenage Spaceman* and *Regenerate* are decent, the band should leave vocals to their guests.

TOP 10 SMARTPHONES

iPhone insurance £5.99/m at **protectyourbubble.com/stuff**

1



Stuff HOT BUY

Apple iPhone 4 from £570

www.apple.com/uk

The app-happy King of Smartphones is reborn slimmer and smarter as iPhone 4. Out goes the plastic, in comes a more desirable and robust glass and steel case – albeit one with a design flaw that causes reception issues. But even acknowledging that, Apple's latest is still ahead of the competition. New superpowers include HD video recording and editing, 5MP stills, and a three-axis gyroscope for Wii-busting motion gaming. It's the 1GHz iPad chip and ultra hi-res screen (still 3.5in) that make the real difference, though – it's both blindingly fast and superb for video.

KILLER FEATURE The App Store – still out in front by a considerable distance

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

Now slimmer, sexier and smarter, iPhone 4 moves the game on once more. Will it ever be beaten?

2

Google Nexus One/HTC Desire from £390 ★★★★★

HTC's version of the Nexus One joins its sibling at the No. 2 spot. There are subtle differences: the Desire adds HTC's Sense interface and support for Exchange email and flash video, but lacks its twin's speech-to-text feature. Both are brilliant smartphones.

3

HTC Legend £360 ★★★★★

Proving that smartphones aren't just about apps and operating systems, the aluminium Legend is an instant design classic. And while it's not as well-specced as the Desire, the 600Mhz processor makes Android 2.1 run slick and fast.

4

Samsung Galaxy S £420 ★★★★★

Its iPhone-aping design won't win any awards for originality, but the Galaxy S is one of the most capable Android phones we've seen so far. Its huge, 4in AMOLED screen is a joy to behold, and the impressive 5MP camera shoots crisp 720p videos.

5

HTC HD2 £420 ★★★★★

The HD2's Hollywood feature is its huge 4.3in screen. This is both a blessing and a great enemy of trouser pockets. But having just tested its smaller brother – the HD Mini – we think it's necessary to make WinMo and HTC's Sense interface shine.

6

Nokia E72 £250 ★★★★★

The swish white version of the E72 has helped it retain its title as our favourite QWERTY phone. It has a potent mix of multimedia talents (5MP camera, GPS) and also the joys of free Ovi Maps. A budget version called the E5 is due this autumn.

7

BlackBerry Bold 9700 £355 ★★★★★

BlackBerry's updated Bold remains one of the stars of mobile emailing. It brings a sharper 480x360-pixel screen, snappier menus and ridged keys that are a delight to prod. There's even a 3.2MP camera with LED flash for fun outside the boardroom, too.

8

UPDATE

Sony Ericsson Xperia X10 £405 ★★★★☆

After picking a fight with Motorola's new XT720 for the title of "best Android camphone" (see p.67) the Xperia X10 emerged victorious, but only on points. Its 8MP camera takes sharper stills, but it lacks its rival's Xenon flash for indoor snapping.

9

Palm Pre Plus £440 ★★★★☆

The smaller, less powerful Pixi plus is a fine QWERTY phone, but this tweaked version of the Pre is better value. It now has twice the storage (16GB) and RAM (512MB), and Palm's WebOS remains a slick smartphone experience despite a dearth of apps.

10

NEW

Samsung Wave £300 ★★★★☆

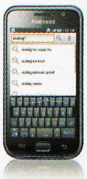
The first phone to run Samsung's new Bada OS is an impressive all-rounder. A crisp 3.3in super AMOLED display fronts the show, build quality is solid and it shoots 720p video. But Samsung's fledgling App Store is, as expected, comparatively threadbare.

[Prices quoted are for handset only unless otherwise stated]

INSTANT EXPERT

Mark Wilson Smart tart
mark@stuff.tv

We're rather fond of touchscreens at *Stuff*, but stubbing our fingers on a piece of glass is still far from our ideal typing experience. Which is why we're excited about a new text input system called **Swype**. First available on Samsung's Galaxy S, the nifty tech was recently available as a free beta for Android phones. Rather than tapping each key, Swype lets you trace each letter on the keyboard in one fluid motion. In our play on a resistive LG inTouch Max it performed admirably, accurately second-guessing words we were "Swyping" and vastly improving our texting speed. The longer travel of tablet keyboards may make it less suitable for devices like the ICD Gemini, but we expect Swype to supercede T9 on most Android phones by the end of the year.



// We expect Swype to supercede T9 on most Android phones"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 **Operating system** Beyond Apple's OS, there are five ways to go: Windows Mobile, Google Android, Symbian, BlackBerry and Palm's WebOS. BlackBerry and Windows are best for business, Symbian is simple and Android has great apps. All sync with your PC (and most with Mac) to give mobile email, calendar and contacts.

2 **Connectivity** Bluetooth is handy. Wi-Fi powers internet and email, HSDPA provides mobile broadband everywhere and A-GPS means sat-nav. Look for compasses, too.

3 **Screen** Standard resolution is at least 480x320 these days, but the real fun starts with touchscreen interfaces. The best possible situation is a phone that offers screen input and a dedicated keypad or QWERTY keyboard.

4 **Apps** As important as the phones are the applications they can run. The iTunes App Store is streets ahead, Android second.

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TOP 10 PHONES

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1

Stuff HOT BUY

Sony Ericsson W995 £230

www.sonyericssson.com/uk

Yet again, Sony Ericsson proves you don't need a touchscreen to bring the fun. The W995 is the best Walkman phone ever, featuring v4.0 software and direct access to BBC iPlayer and YouTube from its vibrant 2.6in screen. Its dedicated audio controls, Clear Stereo and Clear Bass tech and 3.5mm headphone socket make it a killer music mobile, but it's much more than that. An 8.1MP camera round the back takes good, if not quite Cyber-shot-quality stills and its slight form packs Wi-Fi, HSDPA and A-GPS support.

KILLER FEATURE Beautifully finished, hewn-from-metal slider construction

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

The finest Walkman phone ever, with top-drawer specs and a premium build

2

Nokia 6700 Classic £155 ★★★★★

With this update of the 6300, Nokia has delivered another bona fide classic wrapped in stainless steel. There's HSDPA, customisable homescreens and a 5MP snapper that punches well above its weight, but sadly no Wi-Fi or 3.5mm headphone jack.

3

Sony Ericsson C905 Plus £220 ★★★★☆

More a software refresh than a completely new Cyber-shot phone. This Plus model builds on the original's supreme 8MP photographic skills by adding effective Smile Shutter tech along with BBC iPlayer and YouTube apps, and an 8GB memory card.

4

Samsung S5620 Monte £150 ★★★★☆

Budget phones tend to scrimp on key features, but not the Monte. It has the "golden triangle" of Wi-Fi, HSDPA and A-GPS, a responsive capacitive touchscreen and a BBC iPlayer widget that lets you download programmes over-the-air. For the price, it's a steal.

5

LG Viewty Smart £240 ★★★★☆

Combining the best bits of the Renoir (8MP snapper, WVGA video) and the Arena (Dolby Mobile audio, spangly touch interface and sabre-sharp screen) the Viewty Smart has a cor-blimey spec. No 3.5mm headphone jack though, for goodness sake.

6

Puma phone £400 ★★★★☆

This Sagem-made touchphone is the world's sportiest mobile. Fronted by a 2.8in screen and slick bespoke interface, it has a wealth of fitness apps (including a pedometer, cycling monitor and stopwatch), plus a solar panel for topping up the battery life.

7

Samsung Jet £210 ★★★★☆

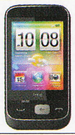
A blindingly fast interface, nimble touchscreen and compact dimensions make this one of the smartest non-smartphones on the market. Multiple homescreens, an AMOLED screen, plus a 3.5mm headphone jack and 2GB of built-in storage add to its appeal.

8

Samsung Genio Slide £155 ★★★★☆

If the Nokia 6700 Classic is too lacking in social media nous for your liking, this slider phone is an excellent alternative. Stuffed with apps including Twitter and BBC iPlayer, it packs HSDPA, Wi-Fi and an excellent keyboard. Build quality is a little ropey, mind.

9



HTC Smart £180 ★★★★☆

Running on Qualcomm's Brew OS rather than Android, the diddy Smart serves up a smartphone-lite experience for peanuts. It packs a 2.8in screen and HTC's excellent Sense interface, but a lack of key features such as Wi-Fi and GPS let it down.

10

INQ Mini 3G £40 PAYG ★★★★☆

INQ adds to its social networking nous by running Twitter as a homescreen app on this super-compact handset. There's IMAP email, HSDPA for browsing and up to 4GB of storage. All-in, it's a great cheap and cheerful option for social butterflies.

[Prices quoted are for handset only unless otherwise stated]

INSTANT EXPERT

Mark Wilson He's no phoney
mark@stuff.tv

The poor **Microsoft Kin** has turned out to be the Mayfly of the phone world. Having hatched and fluttered about promisingly in April 2010, it was struck down just two months later after disappointing sales in the US. In some ways, this is a great shame – both the **Kin One and Two** brought interesting features such as cloud backup and a Zune-like music experience, and were due to launch in Europe. But the Sidekick-inspired blowers were vastly overpriced and fell down the chasm between all-singing smartphones and simple "phone-and-text" Nokias. With Israeli company Emblaze also recently canning its First Else phone, there's clearly little room for hardware outsiders on the ruthless mobile phone battleground.

> // There's little room for outsiders on the mobile battleground"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 **Camera** If you're looking for a mobile to replace your digicam, go for one with five or more megapixels. Also, look for an autofocus lens and flash – ideally xenon rather than LED.

2 **Capacity** Taking lots of snaps and videos will eat your phone's memory – but not as voraciously as music. If it's an iPod rival you're after, make sure it has a removable memory card so you can upgrade it to a larger one, or make sure it has at least 8GB built-in.

3 **Connectivity** Wi-Fi and HSDPA mean high-speed internet browsing, though the former only works in spitting distance of a hotspot. If you're after a hands-free headset for calls, any Bluetooth phone should do. But if you want to stream music wirelessly, you need A2DP.

4 **Battery** Check the manufacturer's quoted battery life, then halve it. The most power-hungry features are big screens, 3G, Wi-Fi and music. Oh, and phone calls.

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4 Episode 118 - HTC Touch Diamond details, Freesat incomi...
5 Episode 117 - Gizmodo rises from the dead...again and we...

Music systems for the 21st century

8:45
JazzFM
Jazz and Blues
vitaaudio

At Vita Audio we are passionate about sound and design. For over 30 years we have worked within the revered British audio industry, creating high quality loudspeaker systems for music and audio enthusiasts.

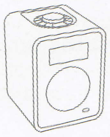
8:45
iPod touch
19/05/09
vitaaudio

Using the same exacting standards, we formed Vita Audio with the sole desire to create a series of fine small audio products with serious inclination and wide ranging appeal. Since launching in 2006 our models have quickly become recognised as the finest available for their iconic design and outstanding sound.

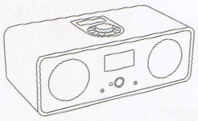
iPod
15:45
vitaaudio

The Sunday Telegraph described our R1 as "**the Aston Martin of DAB radios**". This sentiment succinctly describes our philosophy and we believe that our products are an investment which you will cherish and enjoy for years to come.

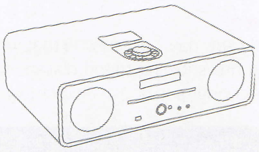
To learn more about us or to request a brochure, please visit our website or call us on 01702 601410



R1 DAB/FM tabletop radio



R2i tabletop stereo



R4 integrated music system

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serious small audio™

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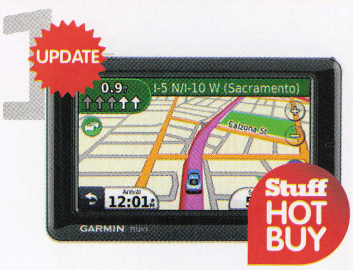
TOP 10 SAT-NAV

1 Garmin nüvi 1690 £170



www.garmin.com

Garmin's smart 1690 offers similar on-the-fly updates to TomTom's LIVE services, but now only a whisker cheaper - free for a year, then £45/year. (TomTom is free for a year, then £47.50/year.) The nuLink services include live traffic, Google local search, fuel prices and weather - all useful if you are a bit of a road warrior, although free phone apps now offer some of these things. Elsewhere the 1690 remains a decent navigator, with crispy graphics, lane assist and fuel-saving EcoRoute software.

KILLER FEATURE SIM-card powered live services free for a year

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

Looks pricey, but worth every penny – and it's cheaper than its main rivals in the long run

2 TomTom Go 950 LIVE £250 ★★★★★

TomTom has encheapened its Live services - free for a year, £47.50/year thereafter – making it an even closer rival for the Garmin 1690. Choosing between them may just come down to which you prefer the look of. The 750 is cheaper, but has no US maps.

3 Garmin Edge 705 from £280 ★★★★★

Not in-car sat-nav, but the Garmin Edge is such a good GPS for cyclists that we had to include it. Primarily it records data about your ride but it will also store routes, navigate you to a location and show basic maps. There's a new non-map version: the 500, £175.

4 TomTom Start2 from £100 ★★★★★

TomTom has subtly updated its baby sat-nav with a couple more features, but without sacrificing the easy-to-use software that makes it so good. The new lane guidance and spoken street names will be useful, and it gets TMC traffic accessory compatibility, too.

5 Navigon 7310 £180 ★★★★★

We like the 7310. It has 3D landmarks and a clever attitude towards parking: it knows that getting somewhere isn't the end of the story – you need somewhere to stop, too. And the bad news: it's been discontinued. We'll be testing its replacement very soon.

6 CoPilot Live 8 for iPhone £27 ★★★★★

With TomTom for iPhone coming in at an eye-watering £60-£80, CoPilot gets our nod for the time being. It's not quite as pretty, but has the bonus of a live traffic option for £20/month. Now has a totally free rival, Skobbler, which uses open-source mapping.

7 Garmin nüvi 1240 £80 ★★★★★

Garmin has a complex range, but cherry-pick the finest and they are fine indeed. The 1240 comes with safety camera data pre-loaded and the option of regular updates for £30/year, plus EcoRoute software for fuel saving and optional AA city guides.

8 Navigon 2410 £120 ★★★★★

Navigon has released an update of its dinky, walking-friendly sat-nav. The 2510 has new Michelin Guide-referencing sightseeing tours, taking in the best of a country's tourist attractions. It's £150 but, good news! Your can update your 2410 for just £40.

9 Navigon 8410 £370 ★★★★☆

This top-of-the-range Navigon is a beautiful object, and it packs some groovy tech, too. 3D buildings are nothing new, but the 8410 has, for key European city centres, actual rendered building graphics. Very pretty, but it's just too costly for five stars.

10 Garmin Forerunner 405 from £190 ★★★★☆

Another Garmin GPS device that isn't strictly sat-nav, but so good that we feel it needs inclusion here. It's a watch that tracks your route, showing speed, distance and heart rate info. It can do basic navigation, via lat. and long., and doesn't look too geeky.

INSTANT EXPERT

Fraser Macdonald… is a digital sextant
fraser@stuff.tv

Money, money, money. All the questions in sat-nav town are about dirty cash this month. First up is the live services price war at the top of the Top 10 table. TomTom now offers its SIM-card powered services free for a year and £47.50/year thereafter. Quick as a flash, Garmin has undercut it by a whisker: still free for a year, and £45/year thereafter. Meanwhile, a truly free sat-nav app for iPhone has emerged: Skobbler. It's free because its based on **OpenStreetMap**, the Wikipedia of maps, so there are a few gaps. But it's free! And you can edit any bits you disagree with at www.openstreetmap.org.

> // Skobbler is free because it's based on OpenStreetMap"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

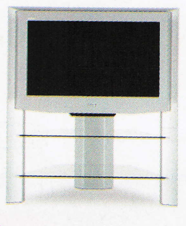
1 Size and positioning Safety first, people. Pick a sat-nav sized to suit your car – if it's too big it'll affect visibility and be overly distracting. Put it bottom right, not centre-middle, so it sits near the A-pillar. It'll bring the screen closer to you.

2 Ease of use A difficult thing to ascertain until you've spent some time with a sat-nav, but ease of use is crucial for a smooth journey. Learn to use your sat-nav efficiently and always set it up before you set off.

3 Extras …such as Bluetooth handsfree, TMC traffic re-routing, MP3 playback and even voice control are useful. But if they distract you, they're a hindrance, not a help.

4 Mapping Do you go to Europe? Or the US? Most devices will let you buy extra maps to upload for your trip, but buying one pre-loaded might be worthwhile if you're a road warrior.

LIFE-CHANGING GADGETS No.1: Fraser Macdonald, Stuff's editor-in-chief



Sony widescreen TV 1992

Actually my parent's, but as I was the boy of the house, I was tasked with installing it. That afternoon I watched and re-watched some terrible VHS film my parents had, enraptured by the Dolby Pro Logic surround effects. Awesome.

Psion Series 3a 1993

In a Spielberg film of my life, I'd be the laughably geeky one. In real life I walked in abject terror that the local hoodlums would turn me over to discover I had a PDA in a holster under my British Knights jacket. (And a BT pager on my belt.)

Archos Multimedia Jukebox 2002

While normal people were still coo-ing over iPods and Creative DAP jukeboxes, I was recording TV, ripping it from VHS to MP4, then re-encoding it to fit on the tiny 1.5inch Archos screen and impressing girls in pubs. All true. Except the last bit.

HTC Hero 2009

My Twitter feed will attest to the fact that I bitch and moan about touchscreens on phones. A lot. But there's no denying that I would struggle to get through a day without a big-screen smartphone: maps, emails, train times… they're so *useful*.

TOP 10 BLU-RAY PLAYERS

1

Stuff HOT BUY

Sony BDP-S570 £230

www.sony.co.uk

NEW

The BDP-S570 is everything most buyers will need from a Blu-ray player. Like the 'S370 (No. 3, below), it'll stream content via DLNA, access LoveFilm and other online services and play Blu-rays to a very high standard. The 'S570 then adds built-in Wi-Fi, 1GB of built-in memory (to support BD-Live) and, most impressively, 3D playback. OK, so if we were being really picky, we'd say it lacks 7.1-channel analogue outputs or a second HDMI socket for older AV amps, but it's still amazing.

KILLER FEATURE It works great, but is the cheapest 3D Blu-ray player you can buy

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

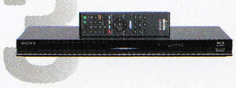
Sony's done it again: a great spec at a killer price. You'd need a very good reason not to buy one

2

UPDATE

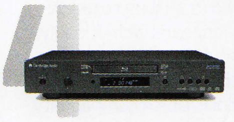
Samsung BD-C6900 £260 ★★★★★
The first 3D-enabled Blu-ray player we tested and a great deck in many ways, with a strong picture and sound, Wi-Fi, DLNA support, 1GB of internal storage for BD-Live, and now also LoveFilm streaming. Compared to the new Sony above, though, it's a bit pricey.

3



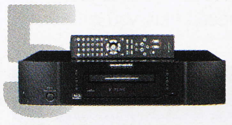
Sony BDP-S370 £100 ★★★★★
Sony's budget BD decks are among the most popular in the UK, and the company's latest will be no different. Offering exceptional performance plus an extraordinarily flexible spec for its price – including LoveFilm streaming – it's simply a great buy.

4



Cambridge Audio Azur 650BD £400 ★★★★★
Can one box really do it all? Cambridge Audio thinks so. The DVD-Audio and SACD-friendly 650BD is aimed squarely at audio enthusiasts, but it still delivers a great Blu-ray experience, too. OK, so there's no 3D, but that won't matter to many folk.

5



Marantz BD7004 £600 ★★★★★
It's a lot of money in the current Blu-ray market, especially when you consider the Marantz's comparatively basic spec. But for both picture and sound quality, the latter in both multi-channel and stereo, the BD7004 excels: it's surgical in its precise brilliance.

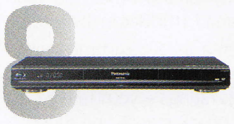
6

Sony BDP-S5000ES £870 ★★★★★
The S5000ES is assembled with such fanatical attention to detail, it's just about worth the enormous outlay required. The mega build and über-advanced spec wring every morsel of picture and sound detail from your discs. Ideal for a high-end system.

7

Sony PS3 Slim from £250 ★★★★★
If you're into gaming, you might question whether you need a separate Blu-ray player. Go for a PS3 and you won't. It can decode all HD audio formats and outputs fabulous 1080p pictures through HDMI. You can pick up a matching AV remote separately.

8



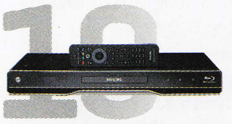
Panasonic DMP-BD85 £250 ★★★★☆
It mightn't look that special, but the 'BD85 is laden with picture and sound-enhancing kit designed to get the very best from your Blu-rays. In the main, it works: this is a great player and a solid purchase. However, it's now looking expensive next to newer rivals.

9

NEW

LG BD570 £190 ★★★★☆
This web-friendly LG is a very decent deck at the price: it includes built-in Wi-Fi, something you have to pay extra for in many rivals, and it'll handle DLNA streaming. Performance is generally good, but DVD upscaling and overall sound could be better.

10



Philips BDP-7500 £200 ★★★★☆
While most Blu-ray players are little more than squat slabs of black plastic, the '7500 attempts a more interesting look, with a mirror-finish fascia and minimalist, touchpanel controls. It's a decent deck, too – just not quite impressive enough to justify its price.

INSTANT EXPERT

Will Findlater Thinking Blu-tiful thoughts
will@stuff.tv

The first 3D-enabled Blu-ray players have been surprisingly affordable, with the new Sony BDP-S570 (our new number one, see left) offering pretty much everything most buyers are likely to need for less than £250. But **Marantz**'s new **UD7005** is set to cost £800 (marantz.com), so what gives? Simply, this is a deck that attempts to be all things to all users: a universal player. Besides 3D and normal Blu-rays, it's able to spin DVD-Audio and SACD discs, plus decode a wide range of compressed audio formats such as MP3 and AAC. It'll even handle DLNA 1.5 streaming, making it – for now – the most comprehensively specified high-end Blu-ray deck money can buy.

// Marantz's UD7005 costs £800 but it'll play just about anything"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

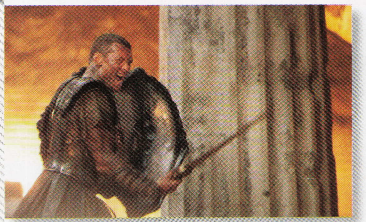
1 **Upscaling is a must** if you're looking to play DVDs on your hi-def telly. This process matches expands the pixel count of a standard-def signal to match that of a 720p, 1080i or 1080p flatscreen. But make no mistake – it's not a true HD picture, it's just been blown up.

2 **Look for Profile 2.0** and the BD Live label. This will give you access to extra Blu-ray disc features via the internet through your player's built-in Wi-Fi or Ethernet port.

3 Make sure your player or AV amp can cope with **HD audio**. There are various flavours (including Dolby TrueHD and DTS-HD Master Audio, as well as uncompressed PCM), which will give you a much more immersive experience.

4 **Invest in decent cables.** Yes, they might cost a bit (in some cases, a lot), but they're much better than the cheapo ones that come with the players. That goes for HDMI and speaker cables.

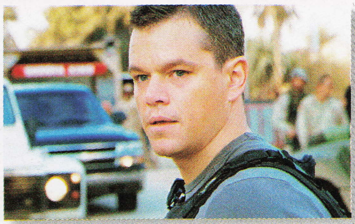
OUR PICK NEW BLU-RAY RELEASES



Clash Of The Titans ★★☆☆☆
Proof that Remake Road is often rocky, 2010's *Clash* somehow contrives to be both far more spectacular and far less fun that its 1981 forebear. Noisy, confused, soulless and generally no more worthy of your time than *Transformers 2*.

Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs 3D ★★★★☆
It's no Pixar, but *Cloudy*'s a charming kids' movie in its own way, its vividly-hued inanity and deftly assembled voice cast affording it appeal all its own. In 3D, it's stunning, with epic depth and sharpness.

The Crazies ★★★★☆
Another George A. Romero remake, this isn't the most challenging two hours you'll ever spend, but its comparative simplicity is effectively delivered by the low-key cast. As every good horror should, it also packs the odd spectacular "jump" moment.



Green Zone ★★★★★
Matt Damon stars, Paul Greengrass directs: it's a combination that should get any *Bourne* fan slavering in anticipation, and rightly so. A deft blend of pulsating action infused with real intelligence, it's one of the year's most satisfying thrill-rides yet.

TOP 10 HOME CINEMA

1

Stuff HOT BUY

Panasonic SC-BT205 £540

www.panasonic.co.uk

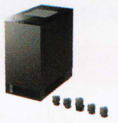
The main receiver unit might be no bigger than a standalone Blu-ray player, but the BT205's four large floorstanding speakers give it a hefty sound, and automatic speaker calibration helps to optimise quality. There's plenty of kit to play with too, including a nifty built-in iPod dock, USB and SD card inputs and Viera Cast access to online content. Pictures are admirably detailed and accurate, the Panasonic picking out the subtleties in shadowy scenes as readily as it highlights crisply drawn edges. Sound quality is gutsy and involving too, with the system thundering along with real composure.

KILLER FEATURE The neatly integrated iPod dock in the front panel

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

The most accomplished Blu-ray all-in-one home cinema system sensible money will buy

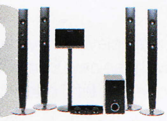
2



Sony HT-IS100 £375 ★★★★★

You'll need to bring along a separate Blu-ray player, but the HT-IS100 has everything else for a home-cinema house party. Despite their golf-ball-like dimensions, these minute speakers produce an impressive, accomplished surround-sound performance.

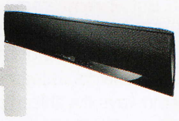
3



LG HT953 £700 ★★★★★

So there's no Blu-ray, but for a scoff-inducing price tag, the HT953 is one of the most stylish DVD home cinema systems around, with sumptuously sculpted speakers and a chic slot-loading console. There are three HDMI inputs and DVD upscaling, too.

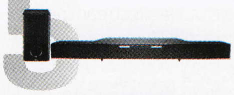
4



Yamaha YSP-4100 £1080 ★★★★★

Replacing Yamaha's much-admired YSP-40D, the new '4100 adds onboard HD audio decoding for Blu-ray, wireless streaming of audio from your iPod and, if you want more bass without cable clutter, a wireless subwoofer option. Nice.

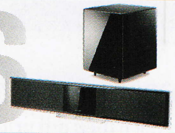
5



LG HLB54S £520 ★★★★☆

This Blu-ray-enabled soundbar does everything most people could want in one box: it's got wireless-n for network streaming and YouTube, two extra HDMIs for easy switching of your other sources and even a wireless sub. Clever stuff.

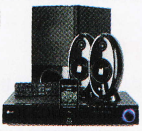
6



Samsung HT-BD8200 £580 ★★★★☆

The super-tidy HT-BD8200 comprises just two boxes: the speaker bar houses a Blu-ray player, inputs and amplification, while a wireless active subwoofer doles out the bass. There's also an iPod dock, YouTube support, network access, and a USB in.

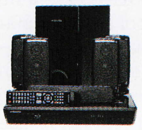
7



LG HB354BS £300 ★★★★☆

LG's 2.1 Blu-ray solution is a real looker, its elegant touch-sensitive buttons and blue backlighting adding class to complement its curves. It's well-equipped too, with USB, Ethernet and iPod support, YouTube streaming and a generous two HDMI inputs.

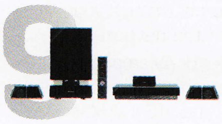
8



Samsung HT-BD1250R £340 ★★★★☆

Unlike most price rivals, Samsung's HT-BD1250R gives you four compact bookshelf-style speakers for front and rear effects plus a hefty subwoofer for bass effects. It's a lot of plastic for your cash, and there's even an iPod dock and a wireless option.

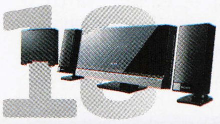
9



Pioneer LX01BD £1350 ★★★★☆

The successor to the LX01 packs the same fantastic performance as its predecessor, with the added allure of a Blu-ray spinner. The LX01BD produces a splendid picture and while the sound could deliver more, it's the best looking Blu-ray cinema package.

10



Sony DAV-F200 £260 ★★★★☆

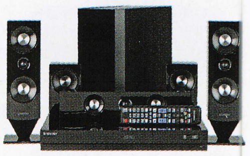
In a modest-sized room, the DAV-F200 is nigh on perfect, offering impressive clarity, vibrant colours and a supremely stable picture. Sonically it's meaty enough, and while it's not true surround sound, the F200 still represents great value for money.

INSTANT EXPERT

Tony Horgan He's got you surrounded

tony@stuff.tv

Whatever you want from a home cinema, **Samsung** is determined to find you a solution, whether it's a simple single-body soundbar, a 2.1 system, a full 7.1 set-up, or this: the mid-priced, mid-specced **HT-C6500** (samsung.co.uk). As with most of the 2010 range, it's web-friendly, with the brand's Internet@TV service bringing streaming support for LoveFilm, YouTube and the like, while an iPod dock, DLNA compatibility and a USB input should take care of all your other media-playing needs. Plus, you get full decoding of all hi-def audio formats, five speakers, automatic calibration plus, of course, Blu-ray. Not bad for £450



> // The HT-C6500 is mid-range and mid-price, but looks decent"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 **Number of speakers** This depends on aesthetics and, of course, those you live with. If you're buying with an eye on the future, note that there will be more 6.1 and 7.1 movies in the future.

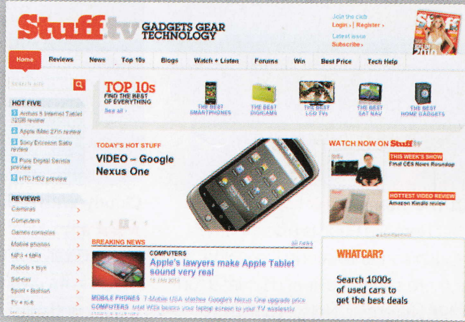
2 **Amp abilities** Cinema-in-a-box comes with an amp, thus reducing under-telly clutter. Don't fixate on wattage ratings – you'll rarely use the cinema at full whack, if at all, and audio quality is far more important than volume.

3 **DVD or Blu-ray?** If you have a big DVD collection, a cinema-in-a-box that upscales via HDMI will probably be just fine, but it's worth remembering that almost every Blu-ray spinner will also play DVDs, so investing in a Blu-ray set-up may be worth it in the long-term.

4 **Compromise** If domestic bliss relies upon a lack of surround speakers, consider "cheat" surround (such as a sound bar) – but get a friendly dealer to let you try before you buy.

Stuff.tv

Get the latest news, reviews, video, audio, blogs and more at **Stuff.tv**



TOP 10 TV RECEIVERS & RECORDERS

1

Stuff HOT BUY

Sky+HD from £28 + £28/month

www.sky.com/hd

Sky's add-on subscription service has expanded to offer 37 channels of high-definition content, including Sky One, BBC HD, Sky Sports HD and pay-per-view HD movies. The digibox doubles as a hard-disk video recorder with a 180GB of usable storage, an HDMI output and a foolproof user interface. Now the standard PVR from Sky, serious HD telly addicts even have the option of upgrading to the Sky+HD 1TB box. It's capable of storing a whopping 240 hours of HD content – that's four times that of the standard offering. Mega.

KILLER FEATURE The all-new Sky Guide, the undisputed king of EPGs

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

Pin-sharp hi-def TV and effortless one-touch recording with some neat bonus features

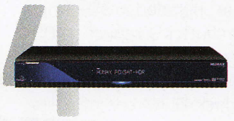
2

Virgin Media V+ HD from £49 + £18/month ★★★★★
The new V+ box is slimmer, better looking and now a real match for Sky+HD. As before there are three tuners, a 160GB HDD and an HDMI out, but it now upscales standard-def TV even better, and Virgin has upped the amount of HD content available.

3

Humax HD-FOX T2 £165 ★★★★★
This initially seems a bit pricey given it doesn't record, but you do get three channels of Freeview HD (plus all the regular Freeview channels), DLNA streaming plus the recent addition of Sky Player compatibility. So actually, it's a bit of a steal...

4

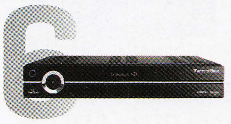


Humax Foxsat-HDR £230 ★★★★★
The Foxsat-HDR was the first PVR to support Freesat's HD system, and even with numerous new entries, it's still leading the pack. You get excellent recording quality, a 320GB HDD, twin tuners and a suave EPG that lets you watch while you navigate it.

5

Virgin Media V HD £49 + £13/month ★★★★★
If you like the sound of Virgin Media's HD service, but either don't need the V+HD box's recording function or can't afford the extra fiver, this simple cable receiver is for you. It offers access to both live and on-demand HD and performs extremely well.

6

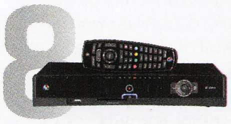


Technisat HDFS £145 ★★★★★
As a single-tuner Freesat HD box, the HDFS isn't technically a fully-fledged PVR – but it soon becomes one if you connect an external hard drive or memory stick to one of its two USB sockets. Plus there's an SD slot and a Wi-Fi adaptor for streaming. Good skills.

7

Panasonic DMR-BW880 £730 ★★★★☆
This is the perfect PVR for true geek – it sports twin Freeview HD tuners, 500GB of storage, can archive to recordable Blu-ray and stream media from your network or serve recordings around your home. Extremely clever, but a little complex for some.

8



BT Vision Vision+ £15 + £14.99/month ★★★★☆
You'll need to be a BT subscriber willing to pay at least £14.99 a month to benefit from BT's online on-demand service, but it's a decent package of both content and quality. The only real shortfall is the fact that there's no broadcast hi-def content on offer.

9

Philips DTR5520 £140 ★★★★☆
Cute, easy to use and endowed with a great picture, this slick little Freeview HD box is a simple, solid path to hi-def viewing. There's also an Ethernet connection, making the '5520 ready for on-demand services on Freeview once they launch.

10

Sagem DTR94250S £190★★★★☆
This PVR from Sagem is the company's first foray in to the world of Freesat HD and it serves up a competitive spec. Besides twin tuners, a 250GB hard drive and 1080i upscaling, it offers a top-quality picture to boot. A solid, if not outstanding, debut.

INSTANT EXPERT

Tom Wiggins PVR-tist
tomw@stuff.tv

Digital who? You'd be forgiven for dismissing **Digital Stream** as another me-too TV receiver/recorder brand, but the **DHR8205** (£290, dstreamtech.com) is no humdrum shelf-clogger. This 500GB Freeview+HD PVR stems from good stock (Samsung is a major shareholder) and it both looks and feels a cut above many of its rivals. Good for 125 hours of hi-def recording or up to 250 hours of standard-def, it features three MP3-friendly USB inputs, an Ethernet socket – currently inactive, but likely to offer future expansion for online services such as iPlayer – plus an eight-day EPG.

> // Digital Stream's 500GB DHR8205 is no humdrum shelf-clogger"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 **Hard drive capacity** 160GB or 250GB is the norm for most recorders, although 500GB and 1TB models do exist. Hi-def video eats up hard-disk space, so buy a large-capacity box if you can.

2 **How long?** Most TV receivers are preset to offer only one level of recording quality, but with some hard-disk, Blu-ray and DVD recorders, you have more choice. In general terms, higher quality equals bigger files. We'd always use better-quality modes where possible.

3 **Keep it cool** A hard-disk-equipped box generates heat and requires fan cooling, so don't put one inside a cupboard or near an amp, or you may find your box starts crashing.

4 **Upscaling** Boxes with HDMI outputs can often upscale lower-resolution images to suit your TV's pixel count (these days, that's typically 1920x1080). Compare the results to your TV's own scaling to see what works best.

OUR PICK ACTION CAMS

GoPro HD Hero £285, goprocamera.com
The Hero shoots super-smooth, vibrant footage and will capture Full HD quality at 30fps, or 720p HD at 60fps (better for fast-moving subjects). The boxy design means it isn't exactly low-profile, but the case is waterproof down to 60m. ★★★★★

Drift Innovation X170 £150, actioncameras.co.uk
We're yet to test Drift's HD cam, the HD170 (£330), but the standard-def X170 is still a great bet for action sports. The footage is crisp and clear, and there's also a handy screen for instant replays. ★★★★☆

Kodak Playsport £115, shop.kodak.com
The hi-def Playsport's shape means it's not really suitable for helmet mounting, and the supplied bracket was flimsy. But, for all-round rough-and-tumble use, it's an ace cam: waterproof to 3m, shockproof and super-simple to use. ★★★★★

VholdR Contour HD £220, vholdr.com
On a recent biking trip to the Alps, every other action cam was a Contour HD, and for good reason: it's fantastic, and perfect for helmet or goggle mounting. It's not waterproof, but has lasers for lining up shots, which is *very* cool. ★★★★★

TOP 10 TVs

Stuff HOT BUY

1 Samsung UE40C7000 £1500

www.samsung.com/uk

It takes something very special to secure the No 1 slot in this Top 10, but Samsung's newest and smartest TV has what it takes, and then some. First, it can deliver 3D, and does so superbly. Second, it has a built-in Freeview HD tuner. Third, it includes the latest version of Samsung's Internet@TV system, which will expand this year to include iPlayer, LoveFilm and Muzu access, plus support for Skype. OK, so the edge-lit backlighting isn't quite as adept at the black arts as Philips' 40PFL9704 (now down at no. 3), but the Samsung's tech compensations are manifold.

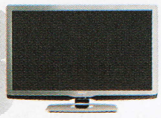
KILLER FEATURE 3D, of course – it looks ace, even if the specs do cost extra

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

Meet the new boss: the most future-proof and flexible television we've ever tested

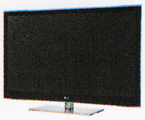
2 Panasonic TX-P50VT20B £2050 ★★★★★

The best 3D TV we've tested and good value for one so large, but the styling's a bit drab. 3D Blu-ray performance with the bundled glasses is as crisp as 2D, and it's loaded with Freesat and Freeview HD tuners, DLNA and streaming tech. Highly recommended.



3 Philips 40PFL9704 £1400 ★★★★★

Thanks to its bleeding-edge full-array LED backlighting, this Philips produces deeper blacks and punchier whites than any older-tech LCD rival. Add to that a sensational spec, elegant styling and Philips' brilliant Ambilight system, and you've one killer TV.



4 LG 50PK990 £1100 ★★★★★

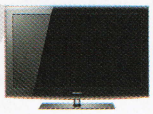
Want features? The LG gives you everything – Freeview HD, 600Hz processing, THX picture modes, DLNA, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and USB media replay – plus a high-quality 50in plasma picture. True, it doesn't do 3D, but the value on offer is amazing.

5 Sony KDL-40EX503 £760 ★★★★★

The first of Sony's 2010 range to fall under our gaze is a cracker. It might be "only" 100Hz and use an old-style backlit LCD panel, but with Freeview HD, DLNA, Wi-Fi and Bravia Internet Video, it's still fully tooled-up with modern media-friendly TV tech.

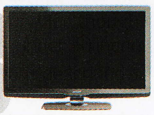
6 Panasonic TX-P42G20 £820 ★★★★★

This excellent Freeview HD-enabled 42in plasma can also receive Freesat, so you'll get free HD wherever you live in the UK. It'll support an external hard-disk for simple PVR recording, too. It's just a shame it's not a bit more interesting design-wise.



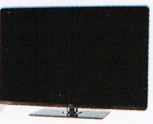
7 Samsung LE-40B550 £490 ★★★★★

It seems extraordinary that you can get a good-quality Full HD 40in television for this little wonga. The Samsung's comparatively simple – there's no LED backlight, no DLNA or Wi-Fi – but it works really well with both TV and gaming. A no-brainer.



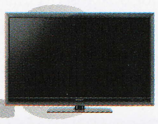
8 Philips 37PFL9604 £950 ★★★★★

A premium price for a 37in TV, for sure, but the elegant, well-specced Philips has a lot to offer if you're feeling flush. Ambilight, integrated Wi-Fi, a built-in web browser and powerful picture processing give it the edge over its rivals, and it sounds fabulous too.



9 Sharp LC-46LE821 £1340 ★★★★☆

Other brands are going 3D-crazy, but Sharp's adding pixels – yellow ones, specifically – with the promise of a better picture. It works too, and the 'LE821 also packs Freeview HD and live TV pausing via 8GB of flash memory. Even so, 3D would've been nice...



10 Sony KDL-40Z5800 £800 ★★★★☆

Sony enters the Freesat market with this, its fully-loaded Z-Series chassis, so you've got plenty to play with besides simply enjoying free-to-air HD TV. That includes 200Hz MotionFlow, network streaming via Ethernet and iPlayer access (currently in beta).

INSTANT EXPERT

Nic Shaw Visionary
nic@stuff.tv

So you don't want a 3D TV yet, but you like the idea of being as future-proof as possible? **Sony**'s new concept could suit you perfectly: the **HX803-series** sets (from £1800, sony.co.uk) are sold as 2D TVs that can later be upgraded to 3D, using a combination of active-shutter 3D specs (£100 per pair) and a plug-in synchronising transmitter (£50). Granted, it's not much of a cost saving, but at least it means you can defer some of the expense. And they're well equipped to compete, with Freeview HD, 200Hz motion processing, LoveFilm streaming and edge-lit LED backlighting included.

// Sony's HX803-series TVs can be upgraded from 2D to 3D"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 **LCD or plasma?** LCD is edging closer to victory simply because it's so much cheaper to implement. Plasma-based TVs are pricier but technically superior, though you won't find Full HD ones under 40 inches.

2 **Full HD** Screens described as "Full HD" support a 1080p signal, the highest resolution video signal that's currently commercially available. They also come with an HDMI port, allowing you to pipe Full HD content from a Blu-ray player or games console.

3 **Stand?** Check that your new LCD or plasma comes with a stand, if you want it to. Maybe you fancy wall-mounting (tricky to do neatly), but if not, you can't just prop it up.

4 **Extras** The scrabble for remote controls can be resolved with a classy universal wand, and don't skimp on cables, especially that all-important HDMI cable. Spend at least £50 on it.

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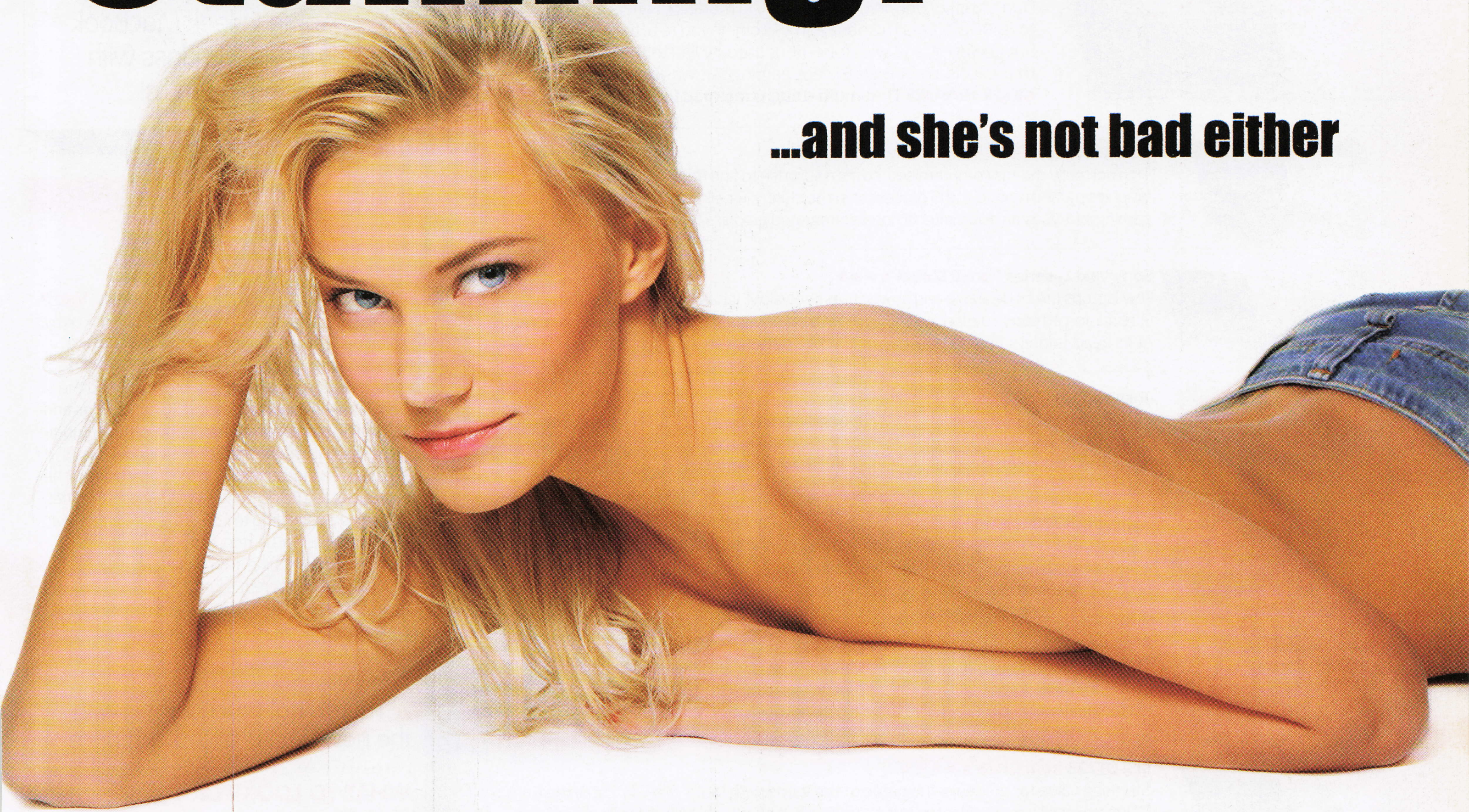

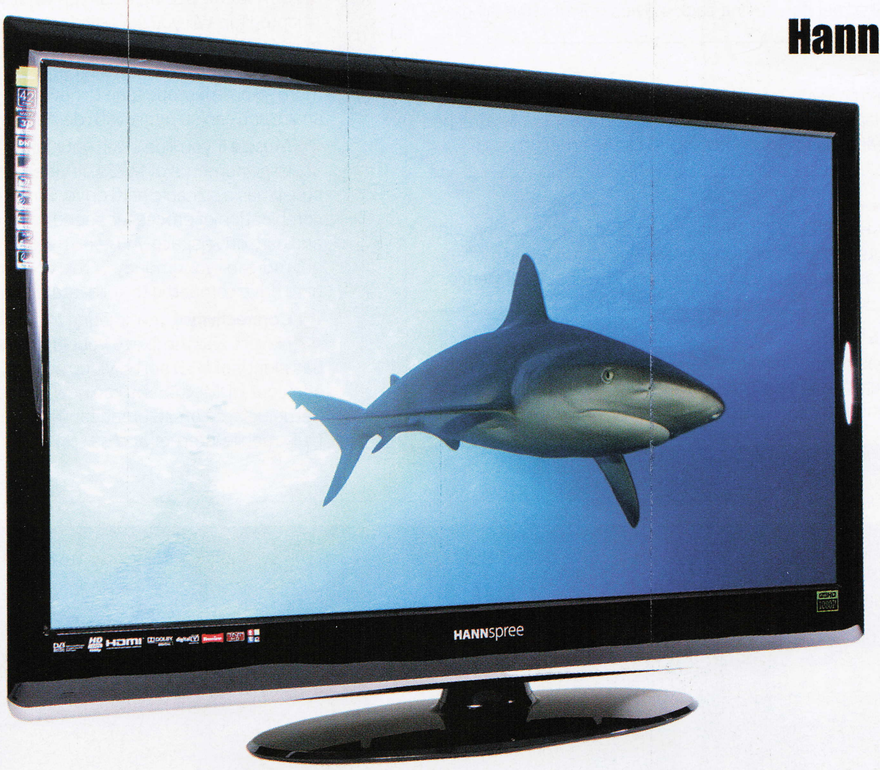

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TOP 10 PORTABLE COMPUTERS

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1

Stuff HOT BUY

Apple MacBook Pro from £1000

www.apple.com/uk

Apple's aluminium-clad 13in laptop has been joined by a polycarbonate-bodied white MacBook. But it's not massively cheaper than this Pro, so, with its huge multi-touch glass trackpad (that's also a massive mouse button), Intel Core 2 Duo chips (i5 or i7 in the 15in and 17in models), Nvidia graphics and hard drives up to 320GB, this is the best entry-point if you're after a portable Mac. Lightweight but powerful, and with four-hour battery life, this is a top-scoring all-rounder that excels in all areas. Except gaming – it was ever thus for Macs, though, eh?

KILLER FEATURE That multi-touch trackpad for iPhone-style twizzling

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

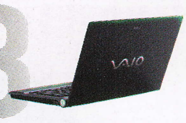
Portable but powerful, Apple's sleek MacBook Pro rules its class with an aluminium fist

2

Acer Timeline X £700 ★★★★★

Thin normally means compromised, so it's a surprise to find Radeon HD5650 3D graphics parked next to the i5 processor in the skinny Timeline X. That takes care of gaming, but you can also switch to Intel's integrated graphics for six-hour battery life.

3



Sony Vaio Z-series from £1230 ★★★★★

Few laptops are as desirable and powerful as the Vaio Z. It has super-thin carbon-fibre reinforced construction, with solid state hard drives, Blu-ray and high-def output. At its heart is Intel's zippy Core i7 chip, and yet its battery can manage six hours.

4

Toshiba T110 from £430 ★★★★★

Lacking the power for gaming or HD video editing may be a turn-off for some, but Tosh's Celeron-powered laptop runs rings around the netbooks it competes with on price. The 11in screen is bright and sharp, and there's a large multitouch mousepad.

5

Samsung N220 £290 ★★★★★

If you're after a super-portable laptop with sufficient oomph for entertainment and a day-long battery life, look elsewhere. Only joking! This 10.1in, 250GB, Windows 7-powered netbook can manage 1080p video and will go for over 10 hours on a charge.

6

Alienware M11x £1170 ★★★★★

The M11x is an interesting niche-filler: it's an 11in-screened, 2kg gaming netbook. In its very basic spec it costs £750, but we tested a powered-up version. Thus, it's too heavy and too expensive to be a true netbook. But it's still very cool.

7

MSI GT725 from £1125 ★★★★★

Stonking value for money is the name of the game with MSI's 17in GT725: all the Core 2 Duo grunt of a gaming laptop but only slightly lardier than a 17in MacBook Pro. Our only gripe is its lack of a Full HD screen for playing back movies from its Blu-ray drive.

8

Apple iPad 3G from £530 ★★★★☆

It doesn't matter if you don't *need* an iPad – spend a few minutes fondling and ogling one and you'll soon want one. It's no laptop replacement, but unless you're especially attached to hardware keyboards it could easily usurp your netbook. 3G can be erratic, though.

9

Asus UL50VF from £740 ★★★★☆

Like Acer's Timeline X (at No. 2), the 15.6in UL50VF has switchable graphics, albeit with rather less poke. That said, the Asus comes with an overclocking app to wring more juice from its CULV processor, has a great screen and operates in almost total silence.

10

Samsung X520 from £680 ★★★★☆

Desktop replacements of the past tended toward the big-boned, yet Samsung's 15.6in X520 is lean and only just heavier than a 13in MacBook Pro. OK, so Intel's CULV processor isn't the fastest, but with an 11-hour battery and a price like this, who's complaining?

INSTANT EXPERT

Paddy Smith… is proudly portable

paddy@stuff.tv

Sony has rebooted its tiny "not a netbook" **Vaio P** and we've given it the once-over on p. 77. So why isn't it back in this Top 10? The new colours are eye-catching, the screen-side thumb pad and mouse buttons are handy for browsing, and the new 1.86GHz Atom processor, 3G capabilities and 1600x768 resolution give it the power to compete in the über-portable market. Plus it now runs Windows 7, another arrow in its digital quiver. The problem is the £800+ price. With Nokia's Booklet 3G taking a price drop to £590, the iPad starting at £430 and our No.1 laptop, the MacBook Pro, coming in for less than £200 more, it's just too much. Knock a few quid off the price, Sony, and we may reconsider.

> // There's not much wrong with the new Vaio P, except the price"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 Form factor Decide what you want your laptop for. Will you still use a separate desktop machine? Desktop replacements have more power but tend to be less portable. Conversely, more-mobile laptops tend to have less storage space and can struggle with demanding tasks.

2 Muscle If you'll be using your lappy to store large numbers of MP3s or video files, make sure it has a sizeable hard drive. Go for the best combination of processor speed, memory and hard drive space you can stretch to. You'll get more for your money with a conventional hard drive compared to solid-state storage.

3 Connectivity If you're going to connect MP3 players and the like to your laptop, ensure it has plenty of USB ports. Video addicts should seek out HDMI, too. You can now get some netbooks free on 3G broadband contracts for truly mobile internet access.

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TOP 10 HOME COMPUTERS

1

Stuff
HOT
BUY

Apple iMac 27in from £1380

www.apple.com/uk

Both a potent multimedia machine and a work of art, there's simply no other desktop computer that comes close to matching the iMac's minimalist all-in-one aluminium design. What's more, few can beat the quality of its high definition IPS screens, and unless you go for the top-of-the-line quad-core model, it's pretty good value for money. Yes, mainstream PCs may have more cutting-edge technology – there's no Blu-ray drive or multi-touch screen option with the iMac – but it's exceptionally fast and uniquely well crafted. Load Steam on it and it's pretty handy at games, too.

KILLER FEATURE Flawless looks hide a multitude of connectivity

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

Apple's flagship all-in-one Mac proves home computers can look great and work superbly

2

Acer Aspire Z5610 £780 ★★★★★
Like the Samsung at No. 10, this is a 23inch multi-touch all-in-one with a slightly faster processor and graphics chip, but a marginally poorer screen. It has a super-bargain price, though, and if you tire of gaming, there's also a built-in DVB-T tuner for Freeview telly.

3

Cyberpower i5 Achilles GT £1000 ★★★★★
Packed with blisteringly fast components and then chilled with a liquid cooling system, the Achilles has it all: top-end gaming performance, geek-out good looks and a more than reasonable price for a machine that'll keep you playing for years to come.

4

Apple Mac mini £650 ★★★★★
The revamped mini is the perfect living room PC. Inside its gorgeous aluminium shell is a decent 2.4GHz laptop brain and Nvidia GeForce 320M graphics chip with HDMI for hooking up to your TV – and it draws just 15W of power, so you can leave it on all day.

5

Asus Eee Box 1501 £345 ★★★★★
Powered by a dual-core Atom processor and toting Nvidia's ION graphics chip, the Asus Eee Box 1501 makes a superior media centre solution. Silent operation, smooth 1080p playback and a VESA mount for sticking to the back of a TV all add to its credentials.

6

Asus Eee TOP ET2010 £520 ★★★★★
A 20in all-in-one with a multi-touch screen for just a shade over £500, the Eee Top isn't quite as strong a performer as the Acer at No. 2, but it remains excellent value and as a simple second computer for the kitchen or bedroom it's unbeatable.

7

Scan 3XS Black Widow Extreme £4410 ★★★★★
Behold the bleeding edge of PC gaming. With a watercooled quad-core CPU and two of Nvidia's most powerful graphics cards, the 3XS Black Widow Extreme is capable of running insane resolutions across multiple monitors. Hence the ludicrous price.

8

Mesh Cute Inspire £370 ★★★★★
A colourful compact that's not quite in the same design league as the Mac Mini, but costs less and has a more practically sized hard drive. It's faster than the Eee Box and has an HDMI socket to hook up a TV, although the trade-off is slightly increased noise.

9

Sony Vaio L £980 ★★★★☆
Sony's sleek all-in-one is a multi-touch multimedia machine with a big 24in screen that's responsive to finger control and looks great to boot. Plus, it has a built-in Blu-ray drive for hi-def video performance. Looks expensive next to Acer's Z5610, though.

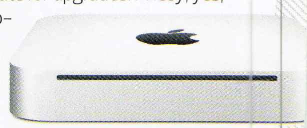
10

Samsung U250 £900 ★★★★☆
It's not quite got the iMac's looks but Samsung's U250 is even thinner than the Apple flagship, while the 23in display has excellent viewing angles and chasmic colours. It's got plenty of processing poke, and is good enough to game on at decent resolutions.

INSTANT EXPERT

Will Findlater Does sometimes compute
will@stuff.tv

The new **Apple Mac mini** (apple.com/uk) is the most desirable little PC ever to grace Stuff Towers. It's been squashed to three quarters of the original's height and has a slightly larger footprint, but it now sports a seamless aluminium shell. Critics will argue it fails to justify its £650 price tag, as inside it's almost identical to the basic Macbook, with a 2.4GHz laptop CPU and Nvidia 320M graphics. But that's plenty to keep it running speedily, whether for day-to-day desktop work or *Half-Life 2*-based games via Steam, all on less than 15W of power. There's HDMI for TV hookup, an SD card slot and a removable base plate for upgrades. Pricey, yes, but no other micro-desktop comes close. *Stuff* says: ★★★★★



> // It'll tackle *Half-Life 2*-based games on just 15W of power"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 **Processor speed** Still the defining component of a PC's raw power, look for one of Intel's Core i5 or i7 CPUs, or AMD's Phenom II X6, if you want the best. Remember a fast processor may also need a lot of cooling, which could be noisy.

2 **Graphics chip** If you want to game on your computer, look for a graphics chip by Nvidia or ATI, and ensure that it has discrete memory. A sign that it's fast enough for fragging is if it supports DirectX 11. Powerful graphics also speed up tasks such as video encoding.

3 **Screen quality** Don't buy an all-in-one unless you're sure its screen is one you can look at all day. Ideally you'll want a colour-rich IPS or MVA panel for accurate photo editing.

4 **Storage** The fastest computers combine solid-state drives and hard disks for raw speed. Media centre? Get at least a 1TB hard disk for recording TV, and look out for Blu-ray drives.

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TOP 10 GAMING

1

Stuff
HOT
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PS3 Slim £250

uk.playstation.com

The inclusion of a Blu-ray player means that the PS3 Slim tops our gaming Top 10. In most other respects, the recently shrunken PS3 is the equal of the Xbox 360, with state-of-the-art hi-def gaming, a 120GB or 250GB hard drive and a growing range of multimedia skills, including the BBC iPlayer app that's still absent on 360. Blu-ray aside, with so little to separate the big two, a decision can come down to price, exclusive content, the feel of the controllers or the format most of your friends have. Blu-ray skills of the PS3 Slim are boosted by hi-def audio support.

KILLER FEATURE The Blu-ray player is the ace up its sleeve

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

Pips the 360 to the top spot thanks to its high-quality Blu-ray player, but only just

2

Microsoft Xbox 360 Elite from £160 ★★★★★

If you don't want Blu-ray, get a 360 Elite. It has the best online experience, HDMI output and a 120GB hard drive. Or budget for the "Slim" version: it's quieter and smaller, with a 250GB HD and dedicated Kinect port, all for £200. Full test next issue.

3

Apple iPod Touch from £155 ★★★★★

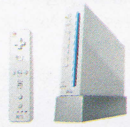
Leapfrogging the Wii to number 3 in the list, the iPod Touch (and iPhone) is now in gaming's Premier League. As the Sony and Ninty handhelds fade into obscurity, Apple's portable is a hive of innovation, fun and excitement with very inviting prices.

4

Apple iPad Wi-Fi from £430 ★★★★★

The increase in screen size over the iPhone opens the door to a new era of gaming. *Flight Control HD* and *Scrabble* only hint at things to come. We recommend the Wi-Fi edition over the 3G on cost grounds. That way you'll get more memory for your money.

5



Nintendo Wii £150 ★★★★★

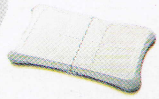
The Wii Motion Plus (see below) has pushed Nintendo's physically challenging console into a new dimension. Suitably equipped, it can track your body movements as it always should have done, while support for the Balance Board keeps on growing.

6

Xbox 360 Messenger Kit £20 ★★★★★

Yes, this little keypad is still in the chart, but that's because it's an essential for all 360 gamers. It adds full QWERTY input to a standard pad without affecting the ergonomics, so you can leave it plugged in at all times. Comes with a headset, too.

7



Wii Fit Plus & Balance Board £70 ★★★★★

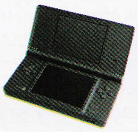
Wii Fit Plus improves on the original with 15 new games and six new training activities. It's now easier to set up routines and there's a calorie counter too. The Balance Board hasn't changed, so if you already have that, just pick up the software for around £20.

8

Wii Motion Plus £15 ★★★★★

The Wii's motion tracking ability was never ace, but this add-on vastly improves the Wiimote's accuracy. It's currently bundled with the brilliant *Wii Sports Resort*, but you'll need one for each controller. Check for compatibility as older games won't support it.

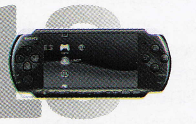
9



Nintendo DSi £115 ★★★★☆

The most compact edition of Nintendo's touchscreen gamer features a pair of 0.3MP cameras, an SDHC card slot and music-playing abilities. It's full of fun and browses the web better than the original. The range now includes the larger-screened DSi XL.

10



Sony PSP 3000 £135 ★★★★☆

The PSP 3000 remains the best portable PlayStation for gaming despite the launch of the smaller PSPgo. The 3000 isn't ideal ergonomically, but it's far easier to handle than the discless PSPgo, which is around half the size with a sliding form but fiddly controls.

INSTANT EXPERT

Tony Horgan Ahead of the game

tony@stuff.tv

For what seems like years (but is actually just one), we've known **Microsoft's** forthcoming motion sensor device as Natal, but it's now been officially christened **Kinect** (£tba, due November, www.xbox.co.uk). On the evidence of the launch titles (kart racing, animal petting, dumbed-down sports, dancing and fitness routines) this is a straightforward attempt to steal Nintendo's Wii market, rather than a next-gen gaming revolution. It seems Kinect can match or beat Nintendo technically, but crucially Microsoft has no Mario to bear its flag. What price *Sonic The Hedgehog*? Maybe Bill Gates should wave a few greenbacks under the Sega mascot's snout and find out.

> // Kinect is a straightforward attempt to steal the Wii market"

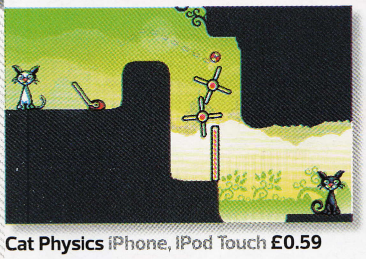
WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 **At home** When you buy a new console, check that it comes with enough controllers and the relevant cables. If not, set aside some money to get the system working properly with your other gear. With cables, third-party alternatives are often a good value option, although generally it's best to stick with official controllers for the best experience. A subscription for online gaming can be another expense, depending on your format.

2 **Out and about** Portable gaming machines are being marginalised by the ever-increasing power and usability of smartphones and Apple's handhelds. Even a cheap netbook can do the job if you pick older and less graphically intense games.

3 **What about PC and Mac?** If you want to play the latest PC games you'll need to stump up a four-figure sum and be prepared to upgrade regularly. The Mac has to make do with nibbling on the crumbs that fall from the PC's table.

OUR PICK MOBILE GAMES



Cat Physics iPhone, iPod Touch **£0.59**

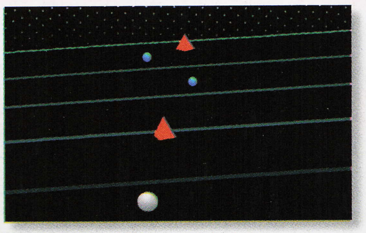
★★★★☆

Cats are actually very good at physics, they just don't know it. Rather than a "land the cat on its feet" game (quick, somebody make that) this is a neat ball-flicking puzzler. Feels familiar, but good fun.

iQuarters iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch **£1.19**

★★★★☆

This is *Paper Toss* taken up a notch. The idea is to flick coins into beer glasses, bouncing them off objects on the table. It's a bit over-complicated and reliant on too few levels, but updates could fix that.



Dot 2 Android **£free** ★★★☆☆

The tilty control mechanism can make you feel a bit queasy if you play this in a car or on a train, but otherwise *Dot 2* is a tidy timewaster. Just roll your ball across the *Tron*-style vista to avoid the advancing red cones and snaffle the blue dots.

Metal Gear Solid: Peace Walker PSP **£25**

★★★★★

Metal Gear games never please everyone, but if you're partial to some sneaky shooting action, *Peace Walker* will thrill with its stunning use of Sony's handheld. A huge game with co-op play as a bonus.

TOP 10 CAMCORDERS

Camcorder insurance from £2.19/m at protectyourbubble.com/stuff

1

Stuff
HOT
BUY

Canon Legria HF S21 £950

www.canon.co.uk

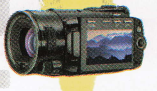
The Full HD S21 is the newest Legria offering from Canon and builds the marque's reputation for consistent quality. It has a 64GB flash memory and dual SD card slots for near-limitless recording, while menu navigation comes via a 3.5in touchscreen. There's a colour viewfinder, but you may be too busy marvelling at 8.59MP stills and 25p cinema-style shooting to notice. It excels in virtually every shooting situation, and the plethora of shooting options gives you complete creative control. All that, and it's built to last too.

KILLER FEATURE Relay recording lets you swap SD cards on the fly

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

A standard-bearer for top-end HD camcorders that produces dazzling footage in all conditions

2



Canon Legria HF S10 £830 ★★★★★

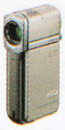
It had a short stay at the top of our chart, but the HF S10 remains a fine semi-pro choice, particularly if you regularly shoot in low light. The 32GB flash storage and huge range of manual controls cap an impressive and highly capable package.

3

Panasonic HDC-TM300 £665 ★★★★★

Budget camcorders are hogging the headlines, but Panasonic is also looking after amateur filmmakers with stunning Full HD models like this. Its 3MOS sensors capture stellar footage, and there are 10.6MP stills and manual controls to play with.

4



Sony HDR-TG7 £430 ★★★★★

Sony's upgraded TG3 has enough improvements to earn it a fifth star. There's now 16GB of internal storage, GPS for geotagging and superb 1080p video. With improved ergonomics too, it's the ultimate pocket cam for the travelling film-maker.

5

Kodak Playsport £115 ★★★★★

Bringing waterproof chops to the pocket camcorder scene, and packing the innards of its Zi8 cousin, the Playsport is the slimline shooter outdoors aficionados have been craving. Immune to sand and dunkings in up to 3m of water, it's a holiday essential.

6

GoPro HD Hero £270 ★★★★★

Hard as nails, and with a cornucopia of mounts that will let you attach it wherever you damn well please, you can rely upon the HD Hero to record your most gnarly of moments in glorious HD. Waterproof to 60m, you'll stop working before it does.

7

Flip MinoHD £140 ★★★★☆

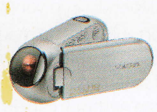
The redesigned MinoHD keeps the 720p video, ease of use and svelte proportions, but has a lovely new metal finish, can shoot for longer thanks to 8GB storage (up from 4GB) and has a larger 2in screen (up from 1.5in) to make framing shots all the easier.

8

Sanyo Xacti VPC-HD2000 £320 ★★★★☆

Another year, another upgrade for Sanyo's trail-blazing pistol-grip camcorder. It now snaps 8MP stills, rocks a new CMOS sensor and has a PAL-friendly mode for playback on your TV. Footage is excellent, but the design can make shooting unsteady.

9



Samsung HMX-R10 £265 ★★★★☆

If you're struggling to find a camcorder that doesn't give you RSI, check out the R10. Its lens is set at an angle to allow a more comfortable holding position and it shoots smooth 1080p video along with 9MP stills. Only low-light performance holds it back.

10

Panasonic HDC-TM10 £325 ★★★★☆

It's one of the lightest Full HD camcorder out there, but still manages 16x optical zoom and great low-light performance. 8GB of internal storage and a Relay Record mode add to its appeal, but it has no mic socket and can suffer from picture noise on tricky scenes.

INSTANT EXPERT

Julian Whitehorn Changing perspective

julian@stuff.tv

With DSLRs such as the Canon 5D getting in on the video action, the benefit of interchangeable lenses on camcorders is becoming clear. That's why Sony is putting the sensor in their new NEX cameras into a dedicated **interchangeable lens HD camcorder** (£tba, www.sony.co.uk) that will take the same NEX lenses, as well as Sony's wealth of A-mount lenses via an adaptor. This is surely the way forward, for while DSLRs have opened our eyes to the possibilities, they lack many of the features a true camcorder really needs. Here's hoping Sony's cam is the first of many.

> // DSLRs lack many of the features a true camcorder really needs"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 Storage The two most popular storage types are hard drives and solid state, either built in, on cards, or both. Hard-drive camcorders offer the most storage and therefore space for hours of hi-def footage, but are larger and more vulnerable to bumps and knocks. Solid-state models can be expensive if you want lots of storage, but are more durable and have better battery lives.

2 Zoom Some models now offer up to 70x optical zoom, but most will have between 10x and 20x zoom. Remember to separate claims about optical and digital zooms – digital significantly reduces picture quality, since all it does is mimic your art software's zoom function.

3 Stills If you want your camcorder to double as a stills camera, remember most are capable of producing only mediocre-quality photos. Loads of cameras can record HD video, though, so they're a better bet if you want one do-it-all gadget.

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Stuff.tv
TOP 10s
CHOOSE A TOP 10
EOS 450D
LET'S PLAY
TOP 10

TOP 10 CAMERAS

1 Canon PowerShot G11 £375

www.canon.co.uk

Canon has taken the bold step of reducing the megapixel count for the latest camera in its G-series. It's down from 14.7MP to 10MP, but with the available light shared between fewer pixels, the result is less grain, especially in darker conditions. That will please the serious snappers the G11 is aimed at. They'll also appreciate the direct access to manual controls. It is a bloater in this company (partly thanks to its flip-out LCD), but it is slightly less knobbly than its G10 forerunner. This kind of control and quality in a compact is hard to resist. **KILLER FEATURE** **A level of control to worry an SLR, but in a compact body**

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★
It's big for a compact and hardly pretty, but the G11 takes stunning shots with serious manual controls

2

Sony DSC-HX5V £270 ★★★★★
A brilliant all-round snapper, this Sony does everything you'd want and does it in style. Build quality is spot-on, as are its 10MP shots. The ingenious Sweep Panorama mode is its party trick, but really this is about the whole package, 1080i video and all.

3

Panasonic Lumix FT2 £265 ★★★★★
A rugged camera that doesn't look like a toy? It's true, although you can choose from a range of shouty colour schemes. Locks on the flappy bits keep water and dust at bay, and it's not fazed by a 10m dunk or icy weather. Usability and picture quality are great.

4

Sony NEX-5 from £530 with 18-55mm lens ★★★★★
Sony's take on the compact interchangeable-lens camera uses a different system to that of the Panasonic GF1 and Olympus PEN series and strips back the controls for a sleeker form. Pictures are stunning, and its sweep panoramas can be viewed in 3D.

5

Canon Powershot S90 £280 ★★★★★
This no-fuss compact has the same sensor as the G11 but packaged in a more svelte body. There's no hi-def video, but for stills it's hard to beat. If that doesn't win you over, the ring around the lens for controlling focus, zoom and other features surely will.

6

Fujifilm FinePix Real 3D W1 £475 ★★★★★
Holding the W1 in your hands is like cupping an orb of actual magic. Its dual lenses capture stereoscopic images and movies which, amazingly, are displayed in full colour 3D on the lenticular screen. Upload your pics and Fujifilm will turn them into 3D prints.

7

Canon PowerShot SX200 IS £200 ★★★★★
A 12x zoom is way more than you have any right to expect on a camera this size, but that's what you get with the SX200, along with a fantastic hi-res screen, full manual shooting and quick access to vital controls. Its 12MP pictures are vibrant and detailed.

8

Panasonic Lumix DMC-FX550 £170 ★★★★★
A glorious slab of technology, the 12.1MP FX550 brings together a 3in touchscreen LCD, 5x zoom and a Leica lens. There's face detection and image stabilisation to help out, along with manual settings and a burst mode for more creative sessions.

9

Nikon Coolpix S1000pj £250 ★★★★★
Showing off your holiday snaps has never been easier. The S1000pj has a tiny projector built into its frame, which throws pictures onto a wall at up to 40in across. Elsewhere it's a decent all-rounder, taking respectable 12.1MP shots via a 5x zoom.

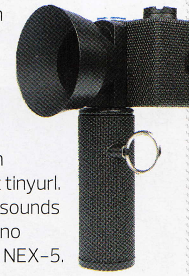
10

Panasonic DMC-GF1 from £545 with 14-55mm lens ★★★★★
Half compact, half SLR, the GF1 uses the same Micro Four Thirds system as the Olympus PEN EP-1 and its successor, the EP-2. The PEN wins on style but otherwise the GF1 sweeps the board. A highly capable and desirable cam for serious shooters.

INSTANT EXPERT

Tony Horgan Photo opportunist
tony@stuff.tv

The idiot-proof Sweep Panorama mode on Sony's NEX-5 is impressive but it's limited to an arc of 226 degrees. The **Lomography 360 Spinner** (£130, shop.lomography.com), on the other hand, can go way beyond the 360 mark. In fact, it can keep on spinning until the film runs out. Yes, film, of the 35mm variety. If you're prepared to chop up and scan your own negatives, the 360 Spinner offers a whole new world of dimension-warping creativity. Powered by a manual rip-cord, it's totally mechanical and will never run out of juice. See it in action at tinyurl.com/360spinner. But if that sounds like too much bother, there's no shame in splashing out on an NEX-5.



// The 360 Spinner offers a world of dimension-warping creativity"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 **Resolution** Megapixels is the headline spec on any camera, and these days you should be looking at around 12MP from a compact. The quality of the lens and the sensor will also have a major part to play in the final image quality.

2 **Zoom** A 3x optical zoom should be expected as standard. Higher-class zooms are still fairly rare: a 5x zoom is very good for a compact camera, while 20x is incredible. Digital zooms are to be avoided as they merely expand the pixels.

3 **Image stabilisation** This helps if you regularly shoot indoors or if your camera has a decent zoom. Optical image stabilisation is far superior to the digital variant.

4 **High sensitivity** Cameras are offering increasingly higher ISO figures, allowing them to shoot in darker conditions, or at higher shutter speeds in good light. The trade-off is loss of detail and additional grain at high ISO.

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TOP 10 DIGITAL SLRs

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1

Stuff HOT BUY

Nikon D5000 £430 (body only)

www.nikon.co.uk

Take the winning tech of Nikon's entry level SLRs and add 720p high-definition video recording, and what you get is the tasty D5000. The controls and menu system are friendly enough for beginners while still offering plenty of options, and the body isn't so big that it'll weigh you down on a holiday trek. The 12.3megapixel sensor is amazing in low light and serves up punchy colours. There's also plenty of support for Nikon from third-party lens manufacturers, making this a great step on the ladder of SLR system building.

KILLER FEATURE Incredible low-light shots and hi-def video on a budget

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

HD video and awesome image quality in an affordable package. What's not to like?

2

Canon EOS 550D £630 (body only) ★★★★★

The 500D's big brother hits the sweet spot between high-end features and affordability. Want to snap? It'll take supreme 18MP photos right up to ISO 6400. Video? You can have pro-quality 1080p HD at 24 or 30fps and 720p at up to 60fps.

3

Panasonic Lumix DMC-G2 £510 (w/ 14-42mm lens) ★★★★★

Sorry purists – we know this Micro Four-Thirds system camera isn't a "real" SLR. But it's a contender, being tiny-small without compromising usability. Its 12.1MP snaps and 720p video are great, and its swivelly 3in touchscreen provides unique control options.

4

Nikon D700 £1650 (body only) ★★★★★

What do you get when you cross the flagship D3 with the outstanding D300? Yep, this full-frame beauty that sits just in reach of enthusiasts' pockets. That large 12.1MP sensor gives amazing results at all ISO settings and the build is pro level. Astonishing.

5

Canon EOS 1000D £275 (body only) ★★★★★

Canon's entry-level SLR takes more than a little style and substance from its big bro, the 450D. Live View, awesome 10.1MP image quality and an image-stabilised kit lens make for an attractive package that's also lightweight and very simple to use.

6

Canon EOS 450D £450 (body only) ★★★★★

A good, solid all-rounder that's packed with cutting-edge tech. Great shots, with excellent tonal range, are backed up by the impressive – nay, class-leading – 3in LCD, 3.5fps continuous shooting, Live View and superb, intuitive control layout.

7

Nikon D90 £485 (body only) ★★★★★

The D80 rewrote the rules about what to expect from a mid-level camera, and the D90 picks up where it left off. Resolution has been bumped up to 12.3MP, images are superb throughout the ISO range, plus you get Live View and 720p hi-def video.

8

Nikon D300s £1090 (body only) ★★★★★

The D300s is capable of pro results at a fraction of the cost of most high-grade snappers. This new "s" version takes the original D300's incredible 12MP images, rock-solid build and 6fps shooting, then adds hi-def video recording – awesome.

9

Canon EOS 40D £650 (body only) ★★★★★

This is what a step up from the entry-level offers: fast 6.5fps shooting, superb 10MP images, a 3in LCD, magnesium body and Live View will all boost your picture-taking options. And the arrival of the EOS 50D means there are bargains to be had.

10

Olympus E-450 £355 (body only) ★★★★★

The teensiest of SLRs, the cute E-450 manages to pack in 10 megapixels, dust reduction, face detection and an excellent Live View mode. Improvements over the E-420 include a clearer 2.7in LCD and art filters that add creative touches to snaps.

INSTANT EXPERT

Simon Osborne-Walker Viewfinder general

simon@stuff.tv

Sigma is best known for its DP series of compacts, and as a superb third-party lens manufacturer. What you may not realise is that it's been making its own SLRs since before the dawn of digital. The latest addition to its tiny stable is the **Sigma SD15** (£900 body only, www.sigma-imaging-uk.com), a 14MP SLR. Interestingly, it uses the Foveon X3 sensor, which captures 4.7MP of data each in red, green and blue in an attempt to reproduce colours more accurately. It also implements Sigma's own unique lens mount, which they, of course, support pretty well across their lens range. If you like the idea of being gadgetarily different, the SD15 should be first on your shopping list.

> // If you like to be gadgetarily different, buy a Sigma SD15"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1 **Continuous shooting** If you're into action photography you'll appreciate a camera that can fire off shots like a machine gun. Average is 3fps, but 6fps and above is ideal.

2 **Live View** Useful mostly for close-ups and tripod-based shots, this lets you frame the subject on the LCD screen, like you would when shooting with a compact camera.

3 **Image stabilisation (IS)** Anti-shake technology is built into more expensive lenses, but if you're buying a load of extra lenses you'll save money if there's an image stabiliser built into your camera's body.

4 **Kit lens** Most SLRs can be bought with a standard lens, which is usually around 18-55mm (or 14-42mm on an Olympus or Panasonic). That's OK for starters, but you'll want more length to get closer to the main event with sports and action.

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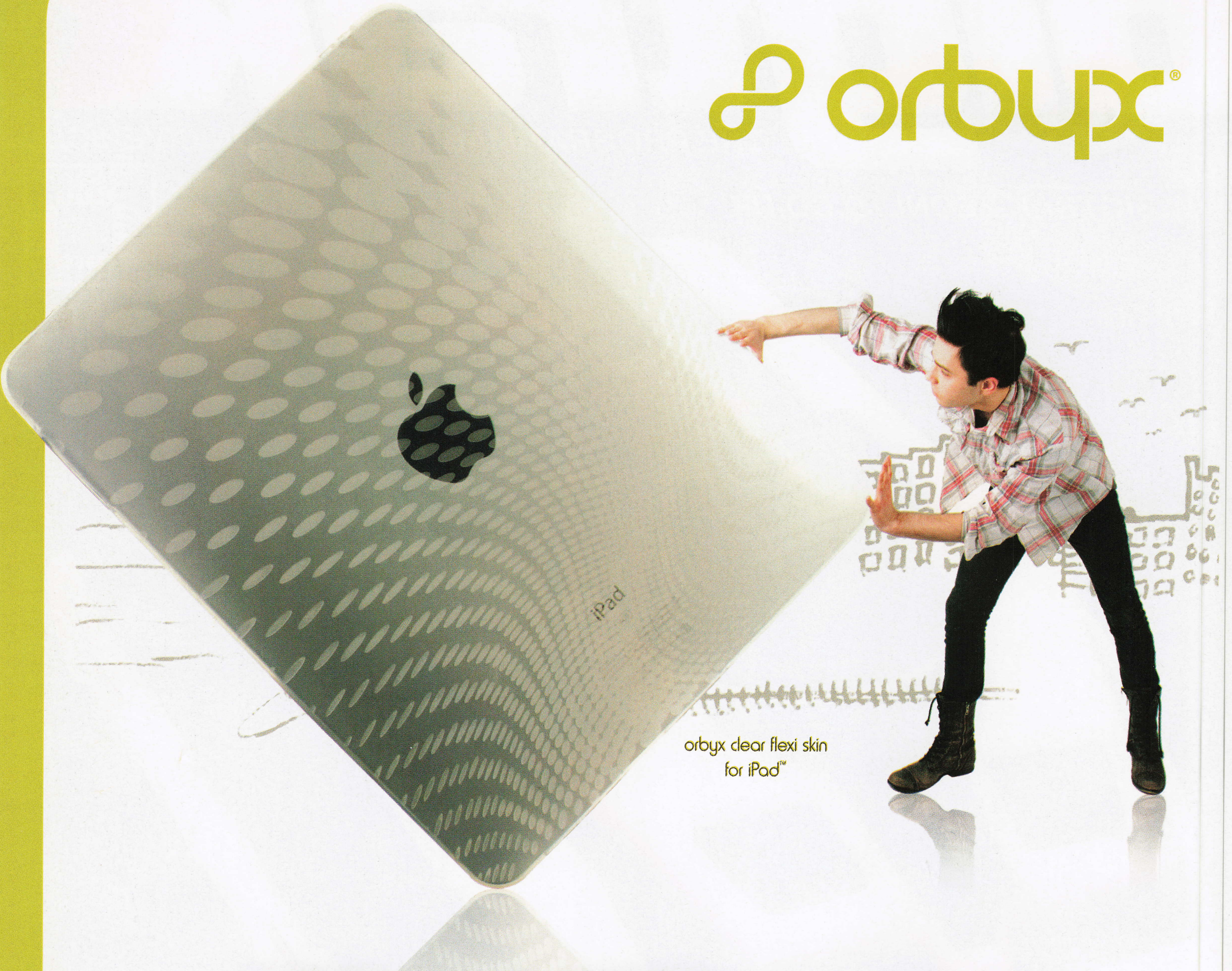

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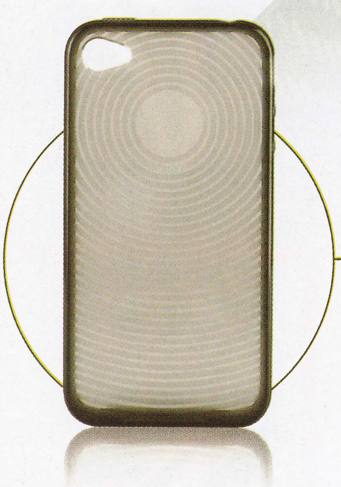

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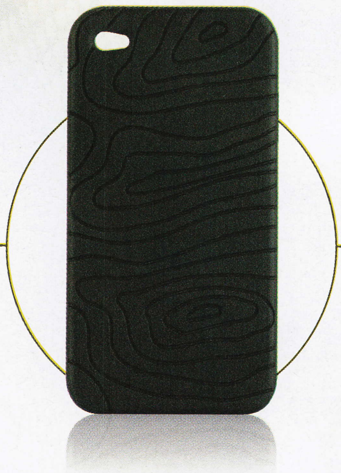

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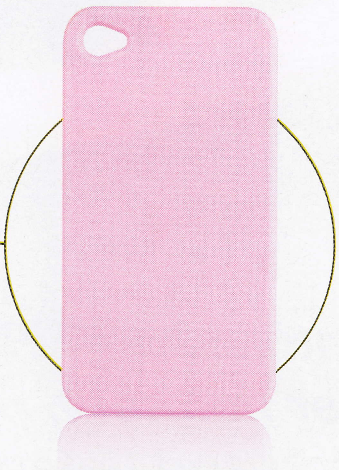

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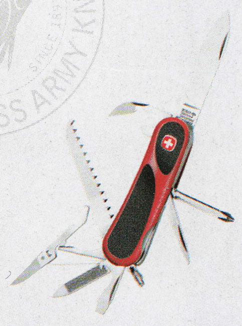

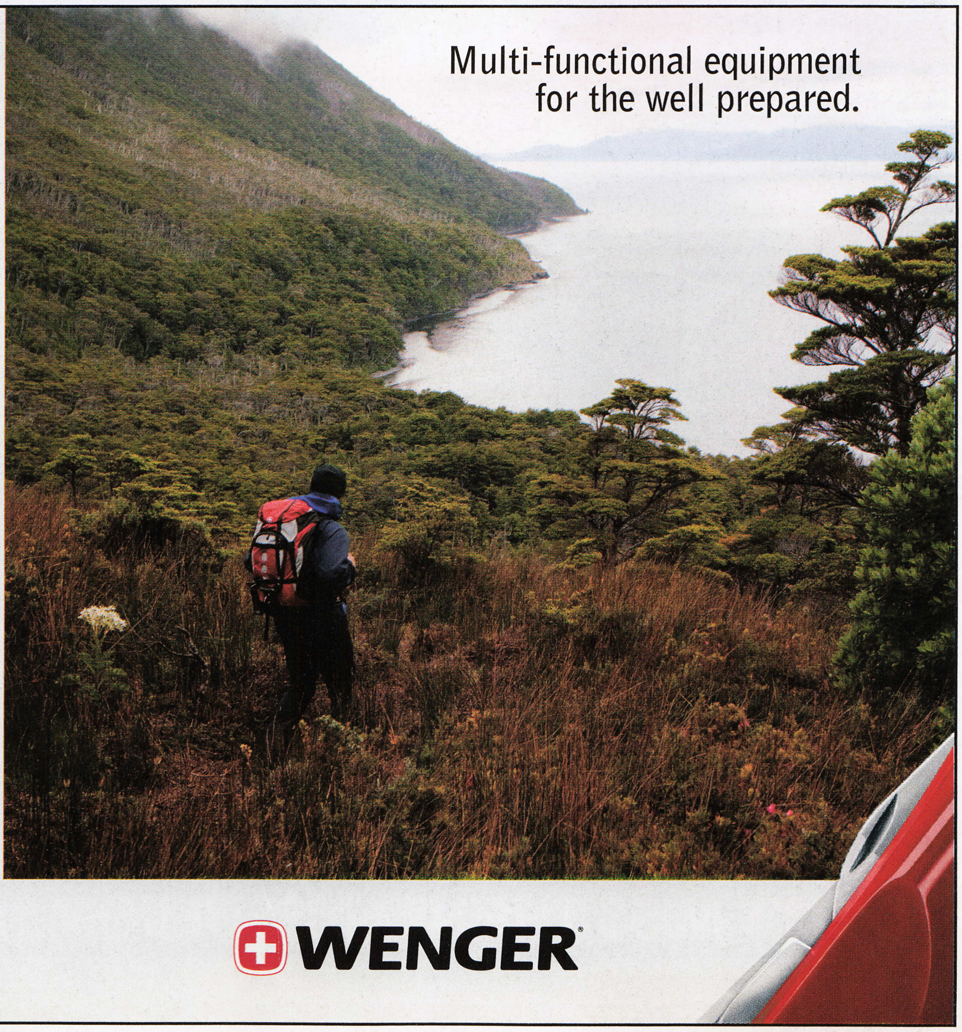

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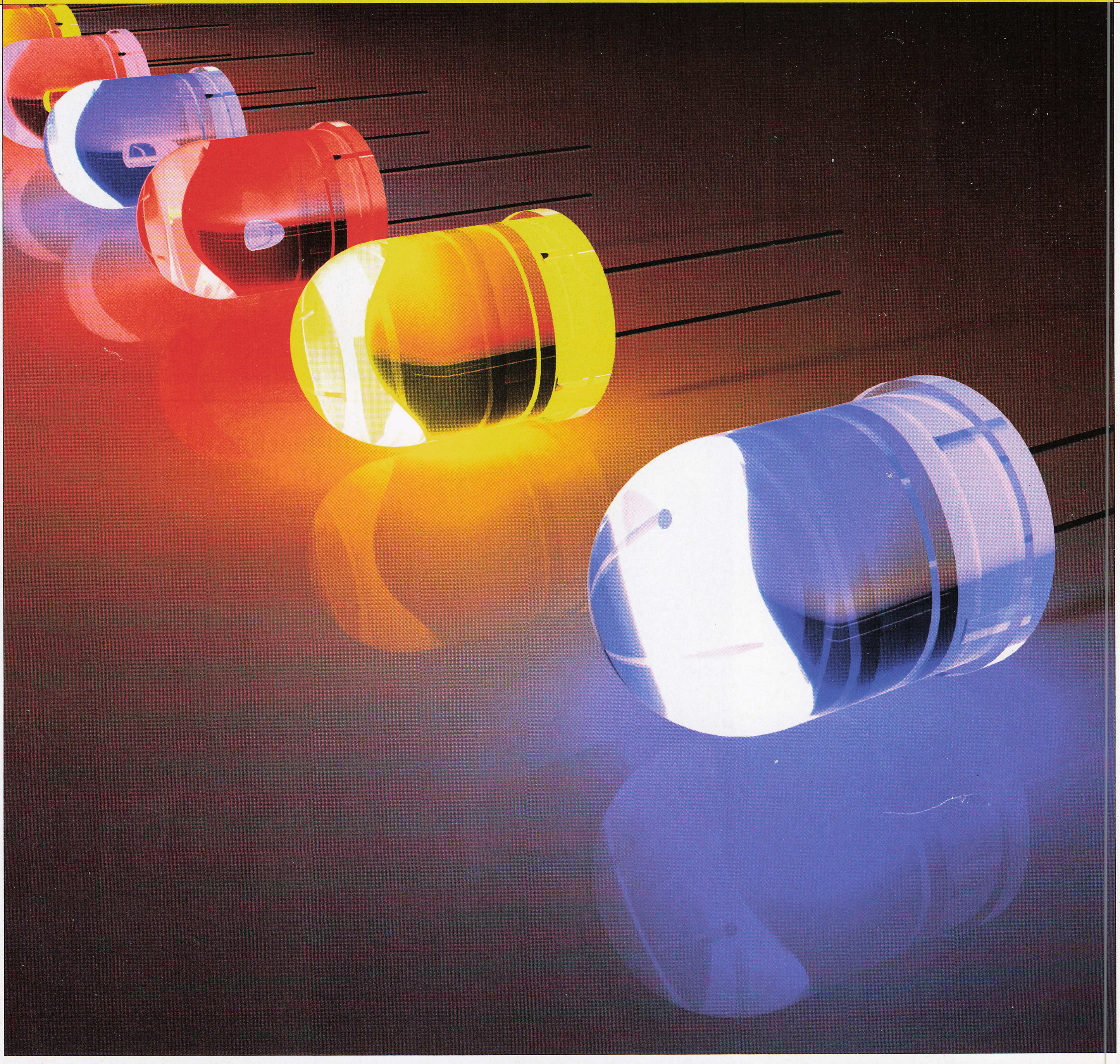
Quantum computing

Pah! Old news, surely?
Just hold your tongue for a nanosecond, because this is complicated stuff we're going to discuss and, in the parlance of The Dude, "New shit has come to light, man." So listen up: in conventional binary computing, something is either 1 or 0, and lots of those 1 and 0 states in a string gives a processor something to chew on. In a quantum computer, each state can also be either 1 or 0. But it can also be both 1 *and* 0...

Yeah, yeah: we all know that quantum mechanics is a mind-bender. What's new?
All in good time. So this ability to understand 1 and 0 and everything in between gives quantum computers the ability to crunch vastly bigger numbers than conventional processors. Which, plainly, is a good thing. And this is not science fiction: experimental quantum computers exist. But they're massive, not least because they need lasers to work. See where this is going?

To somewhere I haven't already been?
Look at the picture! Quantum-minded techs at Toshiba Research in Europe have developed a special LED that emits the right kind of light for use in an optical quantum computer, meaning that they could theoretically become smaller and cheaper, very soon. And then – boom! – hyper-computers and hoverboards all the way. As we quoted at the outset: "New shit has come to light". LED light, see? Oh, forget it...



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